PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WHAT'S INSIDE

ACROSS / A22
P5-M reward put up for rebel-priest

NEWS / A18
HK court postpones Singson drug case

BUSINESS / B1
Shell readies suit vs 'corrupt' Customs execs

ENTERTAINMENT / F4
Cute hunk's 'boylet' has a solo-act sex video

CRYING IN THE RAIN A mother and her children walk along the shoulder of the national highway in Ilagan, Isabela, the province where "Juan" made landfall, to seek shelter shortly after the supertyphoon swept away their house. "There is nothing left," said the unidentified woman who was sobbing. EDWIN BACASNO

12 dead; ₱1.5-B crop lost

Pagasa: Team RP proves world wrong

By Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora

"TEAM PHILIPPINES" proved the world wrong after it was able to overcome the strongest typhoon so far this year with minimal loss of lives, the officer in charge of the weather bureau said yesterday.

Science Undersecretary Graciano Yumul said international news reports last weekend had been saying that heavy damage to life and property was expected in the Philippines, being a developing country with weak houses and infrastructure.

"I think we were able to prove them wrong," said Yumul, the OIC of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

At press time, the Inquirer

PAGASA / A11

'Explosive, not gas, blasted Glorietta 2'

By Alexis Pepa

NOW ON HIS second lease on life, he wants what he calls the truth about the Glorietta explosion on Oct. 10, 2007, to be told.

Retired Army Col. Allan Soliman, said he believed there—as now—that an improvised explosive device, and not methane gas, had caused the blast. He said his belief was reinforced by a purported cover-up by the military and police leadership on orders allegedly

EXPLOSIVE / A8

'Juan' exits RP; waves as big as houses swamp town

By Inquirer Northern, Southern Luzon, Kristine L. Alave and Amy R. Remo

THE STRONGEST typhoon in the world this year hit the country making its way out of northern Luzon but its howling winds and continuous rains from Monday night to Tuesday morning left at least 12 people dead.

"Juan" is expected to leave the Philippine area of responsibility on Wednesday afternoon after slowing down in the South China Sea.

Many areas in northern Luzon remained without power and communications facilities a day after Supertyphoon "Juan" (international code name: Megi) ripped over the region with gusts of 260 kph.

"The waves in Maconacon were as big as houses and swamped the town plaza facing the Pacific Ocean," Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy said over dzRB radio as he appealed for help.

Dy said water, food and medicine were desperately needed in Maconacon, a village of about 4,000 people that remained isolated and only accessible by helicopter or by small boat.

Three people in Maconacon drowned in the storm surge and many others were wounded on Monday, he said.

12 DEAD / A10

RAYMART Esquirin, 9, with his brother Ken Leonard, 2, on his back, walks past the wreckage of houses leveled by the supertyphoon in Barangay San Felipe, Ilagan, Isabela, on Monday.

Joker redux: He got amnesty for Joma

By TJ Burgonio

HOW COULD Sen. Joker Arroyo forget?

Defense analyst Rex Robles yesterday invited Arroyo for his opposition to President Aquino's proclamation of amnesty to rebel soldiers, including detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

Robles recalled that Arroyo, as executive secretary in the Corazon Aquino administration, recommended the amnesty of Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. "Joma" Sison and the reinstatement of officer-turned-rebel Victor Corpus.

"I'm not surprised. He's being his usual insincere, hypocritical self," said the retired com-

JOKER / A6

A tongue-twister that spells disaster

By Philip C. Tubeza

NERPI... what???

The new name of the mother of all government relief agencies—the National Disaster

A TONGUE-TWISTER / A29

UP Law faces sanction over SC plagiarism case

By Nikko Dizon

THE SUPREME COURT is reportedly considering imposing disciplinary action on the University of the Philippines' College of Law faculty for accusing Associate Justice Mariano del Castillo of plagiarism and urging him to resign, the Inquirer learned yesterday.

Court insiders said that the issue was discussed at yesterday's full-court session and that the justices might issue today an order to the UP Law faculty to explain their action and why administrative sanctions should not be imposed on them.

UP LAW / A19

Baby George mom wants to take him

By Leila B. Salaverria

OVER A POUND heavier and still healthy despite a bout of sore eyes, baby George Francis will soon be in the arms of his mother, who left him in an airplane's trash bin a month ago.

The mother, who has suffered through much anguish and sleepless nights since returning to the country, is now determined to raise the child she initially rejected, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said yesterday.

Baby George's mother, Soliman said, had been raped and it was the DSWD's position that no charges should be pressed against her because she was a victim herself.

BABY / A9

Pagcor bought Bro. Mike condos

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE QUESTION is why Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) bought El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde's pricey condo units which may just end up as casino raffle prizes.

Pagcor employees were not consulted before the agency bought 66 units worth P268 million from the Velarde real estate firm, Mariner Baseton, the company's assistant vice president for corporate communication, said yesterday.

Bautista said that the employees, the purported beneficiaries of the deal, were unaware that the agency was buying the condominiums in Parañaque City from the Velarde-owned Arnel Mansions Condominium.

"There were no consultations. The people here do not know how and when (the deal) started," Bautista said in an interview.

She said Pagcor, under its

PAGCOR / A7

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

SUBJECT: Typhoon 'Juan' who located at 270 km West/Northwest of Coppercity, is a moving northwestward at 15 kph. Signal #1 for the Cordillera, Pangasinan & Ilocos Norte. Also Mt. Pinatubo, Benguet, Tarlac, Pampanga, Zambales, Bataan, Cavite, Metro

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Isabela/Nueva	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Ifugao	Cloudy with Rains
Pangasinan	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Zambales	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Mt. Pinatubo	Cloudy with Rains	Sta. Barbara	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Batangas	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Classification: Typhoon, Intensity: TS 75 kph

6/42

Draw 1	13 5
Draw 2	4 27
Draw 3	9 15

SUPERLOTTO 6/45

Draw 1	7 3 7
Draw 2	5 0 7
Draw 3	9 7 9

SIX DIGIT (Wednesday)

1 4 7 2 5 1

4D 1ST 2ND 3RD

6 10 12 15 19 21

P5,488,826.40

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

4 11 15 17 40 45

P127,535,670.00

LOTTO: TOTO Tues/Thu LOTTO, result to 10AM. PCSO.ph/news

Anti-Aquino group airs threats

By Alcuin Papa

A GROUP composed of a motley sprinkling of former opponents as well as allies of ex-president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is styling itself as an anti-Aquino opposition, according to sources in the intelligence community.

The group is watching closely the "plunging" ratings of President Aquino, and since disenchantment sets in, "they can step in," the sources said.

"The group participates in the sort of opposition group against the Aquino government, which they consider an encounter to the United States government," the sources said.

The group is set to "destabilize" the Aquino government but "not excessively" through violence means, one source said.

The group, which calls itself the Solidaridad for Democracy (SAD), took out a full-page advertisement in the business last Tuesday, and declared a vacancy in all elective positions because of the "unconstitutionality" of the May 10 elections.

It called on the Armed Forces to "fulfill its constitutional mandate" and immediately support the group in making sovereignty "a full reality in our country."

The group said the May 10 elections, which brought President Aquino to power, was unconstitutional because it was administered by a foreign corporation, Dar finance-mate 198, resulting in "a digital president all the way to the last mayor."

It also said the recent Quirino Grandstand hostage-taking and botched rescue showed "the massive incompetence of the present leadership."

The group said the Supreme Court plagiarism issue was an act of "dishonesty" that weakened the country's sovereignty and called on the high court justices under the "extreme sacrifice of resignation to restore decency and integrity to the Supreme Court."

Strings attached

It claimed that a $434-million grant from the United States came "with strings attached, one of which was the passage of the Reproductive Health Bill," spite or in disregard of Philippine sovereignty.

Among those who signed the manifesto were Linda Bautagne, a known supporter of Tatiana Presidential Pablo Barrios and a critic of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; Allan Paguio, a disbarred lawyer who defended deposed President Joseph Estrada and who distributed tapes of the "Hello Garci" scandal that implicated Arroyo in election fraud; and "members of the AFP."

But according to intelligence sources, there was one very important name that did not appear in the list of signatories—Senator Benigno Gonzales, Arroyo's former defense secretary and national security adviser.

"There are around 50 conveners, and he (Gonzales) is one of them," the sources said.

The sources said the 54 has been touching base with disgruntled military officers like Brig. Gen. Felicisimo Angsan, who was relieved as chief of the AFP's National Capital Region Command (NCR Command) after he exposed alleged politicking by senior military officers during the May 10 elections.

The source also said Gonzales and Henares had met with Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader Nur Misuari a few weeks ago.

"They met about the resumption of the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) which could marginalize Misuari and his MNLF in a new Bangsa Moro entity," one source said.

At the height of the "jueteng" controversy about two weeks ago, retired Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said there were three groups out to destabilize the Aquino government. One of these was a supposed shadow government with links to Gonzales.

Following the May elections, Gonzales said he was forming a shadow Cabinet that would lay down alternative programs and policies on the incoming Aquino administration as well as investigate alleged poll fraud cases in the May 10 polls.

He claimed he to have sent out invitations to former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, who lost on Mr. Aquino later Mar and Gen. Delfin Bangit, who took early retirement after Mr. Aquino refused to honor his appointment as AFP chief by Arroyo.

11 women make it to TOWNS list

THE COUNTRY'S five female cinematographers, a party-list representative, a broadcast journalist and eight other female pioneers and achievers in various fields made it to this year's batch of The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS).

The awardees are Therese T. Bailey, who was cited for her work in stimulating education, entrepreneurship and community development; Rose member Arlene J. Bagtas, an alternative lawyer; Gina T. Apostol, Jocelyn Cabrera-Bautista, Lauren T. David, the country's first female cinematographer; social entrepreneurship pioneer Therese C. Fernandez.

Antihuman trafficking campaigner Jo Imelda C. Enriquez; organizational gatekeeper Ms. Regina Hechanova-Alampay; ecologist Carmela M. Lapitan; economist Ms. Stella Luz Adriano-Quimbo; agriculturist comedian Marina T. Romero; and information and communications technology leader Myla C. Villanueva.

The 11 awardees were announced during simple rites at the Dusit Thani hotel yesterday.

TOWNS Foundation president Lucinda Aquino said the 15th TOWNS awardees were chosen for being "catalysts of change" in the country.

"The bridge the gap, make the difference and somehow help make the Philippines a better place," said Aquino, herself a 1968 TOWNS awardee.

TOWNS awards, started in 1974, are given to outstanding Filipino women aged 21 to 45, whose achievements contributed positively to strengthening national capability and in shaping the nation's future. See story during

Palace: House resolution vs Deles going for naught

By TJ Burgonio

WITH President Aquino sweating by his presidential advisers on the power process, lawmakers (below, the House of Representatives should just forget about the resolution they passed demanding Deles' resignation, a group of Mr. Aquino's House allies said yesterday.

"Nothing happens to the resolution. The House should accept the decision of the President and move on," Deputy Speaker Lorenzo Tañada III said in a text message.

It would even be better if the resolution is withdrawn "by our friends in Mindanao" when the House resumes session next month, he added.

Mr. Aquino said he continued to have full confidence in Deles whose resignation is being demanded by the Mindanao bloc because of the allegedly insulting remarks she made to Lanao del Norte Rep. Fatima Aliah Dimaporo.

Mindanao lawmakers introduced the resolution in the run-up to last Saturday's approval on second reading of the P1.645-trillion national budget for 2011.

"We can't do anything about it. Deles serves at the pleasure of President. Nothing will happen because it appears that the President still has confidence in Deles," said Iloilo Rep. Neil Tupas Jr.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and Ilocos Norte Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas said it was now up to Deles whether to heed the resolution.

"It's all her call," Belmonte said in a text message, adding that Deles resolved to placate Dimaporo and the resolution's proponents before Congress reopens on June 6.

"Resignation is a voluntary act. It is up to the person concerned whether or not she will resign...It does not really concern the President as the resolution is not addressed to him," said Fariñas.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said the resolution was "just an expression" of the sentiment of the chamber.

"It was just an expression of the House urging Secretary Deles to resign. If she doesn't want to, or if P-Noy tells her to stay, then that's the end of the story, regardless of what version is true," he said.

He did not comment on the threat that the Mindanao bloc could use the Commission on Appointments to prevent its dismissal if Deles, who still needs CA confirmation, be sacked.

Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, a party-mate of Ermita, echoed Gonzales, saying that it was just an expression by some bereft Congress in defense of a colleague.

"But if the President would not listen to the sentiments of the House, we still just have to respect his decision," he said.

However, Deputy Speaker Crispin Remulla said the issue was far from resolved.

"We will act accordingly at the proper time. He (Mr. Aquino) has to understand that this issue is institutional in nature. He came from the House and should understand the sense of the House," he said.

In a statement, the Partner Home Government Officials (PHGO) defended Deles, a member of the group also known as the Hyatt 10, and called for the outright rejection of the "malicious" resolution.

A difference of opinion with a congressman was not a "justifiable basis" for a Cabinet member to resign, said the PHGO, a group of Cabinet officials who resigned in 2005 when then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was implicated in the Hello Garci scandal.

The group called on Mr. Aquino to "demonstrate his leadership" of the political coalition and serve notice that "improvident" have no place in his administration.

With Michael Lim Ubac

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Palace: No gov't post for Tita Tingting

PRESIDENT Aquino will not be appointing his sister, Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco, to any government position because he is barred by the Constitution from appointing relatives, his spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said yesterday.

"She is within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity with the President, and he therefore cannot appoint her to a position," Lacierda said of Cojuangco, who is married to Mr. Aquino's uncle, businessman Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

Peping Cojuangco is the brother of Ms. Aquino's late mother, former President Corazon Aquino.

Lacierda said Cojuangco was prohibited from assuming any government post "by affinity" as she was married to Peping Cojuangco.

He said he had discussed the matter with Mr. Aquino last Monday.

Lacierda, who said repeatedly that a presidential appointment for Cojuangco would be "against the Constitution," appeared to be aware of rumors that the Mindanao bloc that sponsored a House resolution demanding the ouster of Senate Duke, the presidential adviser on the peace process, wanted Cojuangco as Deles' replacement.

Lacierda insisted that appointing Cojuangco as a replacement for Deles was a "remote possibility" because the President still had full confidence in his peace adviser.

Iloilo Rep. Toppy Locsin, who filed the resolution demanding Deles' resignation, reiteratedly made statements that Mindanao lawmakers wanted Cojuangco for the post, when he said on Monday that the bloc was thinking of putting forward the name of Cojuangco as the new peace adviser.

He described Cojuangco as "a very acceptable person, as far as the Muslim community is concerned."

If the President chooses to retain Deles, Locsin proposed the appointment of another peace adviser that will deal solely with the Mindanao peace process.

"The President should consider our sentiment, so can't have some body-have-always-an't-lose," Locsin said in a phone interview.

Christine Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

Truth commissioner allays fears of witch-hunt

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MEMBER of the Philippine Truth Commission yesterday allayed fears that its proceedings might turn into a witch-hunt against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now a congressional representative of Pampanga.

Commissioner Florida Basman, a retired Supreme Court associate justice, assured Arroyo that she—like all other personalities who might be invited to appear in the commission's hearings—would be "given notice of due process of law."

"Definitely, there will be no witch-hunt," she told the Inquirer in a phone interview. "We are not steeped in the democratic rules of law to make it a witch-hunt."

"Especially for the three of us who came from the Supreme Court, even if we are asleep, we are going to exercise this authority and power judiciously so there should be no reason to worry," she added, referring to former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who heads the commission, and Commissioner Robert Caguioa Sr., also a former associate justice.

Basman said the commission's inquiry would not be limited to cases of alleged graft and corruption during Arroyo's nine-year rule from 2001 to June 2010, but said it could also cover cases that "spilled over" into the Aquino regime from previous "administrations."

The cited Section 17 of Executive Order No. 1, which created the five-member commission last July 31.

"If and when in the judgment of the President there is a need to expand the mandate of the commission as defined in Section 1 hereof to include other personalities of past and incumbent officials of government during the prior administrations," according to EO 1, "such mandate may be so extended accordingly by way of a supplemental executive order."

Arroyo's camp earlier said she was adopting a "wait-and-see" attitude, noting that the commission was yet to hurdle a petition asking the high tribunal to declare it unconstitutional. In the meantime, the body had begun official work even without any funding from Malacañang.

"Let's see how they will roll. Will they roll up, drums, sideways? Let's see how they roll work, how they roll progress," Gloria Arroyo-Ilocos, Arroyo's chief of staff and spokesperson, told the Inquirer last weekend.

But Basman was optimistic that Arroyo would not boycott the proceedings. "Everyone will be given her day in court. I'm sure she will welcome the opportunity to assert her rights and be heard," the commissioner said.

Critics of the commission questioned the idea of coming up with a body to investigate graft and corruption when truth commissions in other countries covered more serious cases such as human rights violations.

Asked if alleged anomalies under the Arroyo administration could be considered equal in magnitude with, say, the apartheid regime in South Africa, Basman replied: It remains to be seen. Section 3 of EO 1.

The commission is tasked to "investigate reports of graft and corruption of unbearable and magnitude that shock and offend the moral and ethical sensibilities of the people, committed by public officers and employees, their co-principals, accomplices and accessories from the private sector, if any, during the previous administration."

The Davide Commission was patterned after commissions set up in more than 30 countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

In a process the Philippine Truth Commission said each bodies were set up "to discover, clarify and formally acknowledge past abuses, respond to specific needs and interests of victims, contribute to justice and accountability, outline institutional responsibility and recommend reforms, and promote reconciliation and reduce conflict over the past."

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Stroke afflicts the young, too, says expert

By Cynthia D. Balana

STROKE, which is second to heart attack as the leading cause of death in the Philippines, also affects young people as a result of birth or congenital defect.

"It's astounding that happens to birth, astounding in the birth processes, something goes wrong," said Dr. Brenda Eusgenio, a neurosurgeon and board member of the Philippine Society of Ultrasound in Clinical Medicine, Inc., in explaining the prevalence of stroke in the young as in the case of television personality Nita Alfonso who fast grew overweight.

"It's a congenital defect. There are people born with abnormal blood vessels or arteriovenous malformation. So the child grows older; his or her blood vessels become very thin and fragile," he said.

This is also why stroke can affect and kill people from 40 years and below even with no known history of ailments, he said.

When stroke strikes

Stroke, also known as a brain attack or a cerebral vascular accident, occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted. When a stroke occurs, brain cells in the immediate area begin to die because they stop getting the oxygen and nutrients they need to function.

Stroke is still a disease of the elderly, Eusgenio told the Health Forum on "A New Hope for Stroke Patients" Tuesday which was organized by the Philippine College of Physicians in Quezon City in observance of the World Stroke Day on Oct. 29.

Hereditary factors also play a significant role to stroke, he said. A person with a positive family history of stroke would likely suffer from it later in life.

At this time, Eusgenio advised family members from 25 to 30 years old with such history to undergo annual medical check up. He also recommended this for people 50 years and above.

Dr. Moses Gamaro, head of the Vascular Medicine Section at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City, added that some factors that 50 percent of people who had a stroke would have permanent disability.

Gamaro recommended ultrasound of the blood vessel to determine blocked arteries.

"We have to look for specific factors. You start with the history of the patient, like if he or she has uncontrolled hypertension having episodes of sudden loss of consciousness," she said.

Staggering stats

The statistics on the prevalence of stroke worldwide is staggering, Eusgenio said.

One in six people worldwide will have a stroke in their lifetime, he said. Every six seconds, stroke kills someone; and every other second, stroke attacks a person regardless of age or gender.

Already, a total of 15 million people experience a stroke each year, six million of whom would not survive. About 30 million people have had a stroke, mostly having residual disabilities.

In the Philippines, he said, the latest studies on this issue were conducted in 2004 and these showed a prevalence rate of .4 to 1.4 percent. In Asia, it is about 3 to 5 percent.

The World Stroke Organization (WSO) has called for immediate action to address the stroke epidemic by advocating a comprehensive, continuum approach, from prevention to treatment and towards rehabilitation and long-term support.

Eusgenio said that stroke is a medical emergency, and as such, people must heed its warning signs. These include sudden numbness or weakness especially on one side of the body, sudden trouble speaking or understanding language, sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes, or having double vision, sudden trouble walking and loss of balance, sudden vertigo, and sudden severe headache with no cause.

Sudden is key word

"The key word is sudden. It's a sudden phenomenon, and it is not something that has been happening say, for three months. If you notice any of these warning signs, you have to act fast and get to a hospital quickly," he said, adding that getting treatment within 48 minutes can prevent disability.

Eusgenio said that stroke can be prevented by addressing the personal risk factors—high blood pressure, diabetes, and high blood cholesterol.

He said that aspirin has a significant role in the treatment of stroke, not in preventing it unlike in a heart attack.

Eusgenio likewise offered six steps to reduce the risk of stroke:

- Know your personal risk factors—high blood pressure, diabetes, and high blood cholesterol.
- Be physically active and exercise regularly.
- Avoid obesity by keeping in a healthy diet.
- Limit alcohol consumption.
- Avoid cigarette smoke. If you smoke, seek help to stop now.
- Learn to recognize the warning signs of a stroke.

The WSO recommends that persons who have experienced a heart attack, have been diagnosed with a heart ailment or have irregular heart rhythm, to have regular medical follow-ups to prevent the occurrence of stroke.

Eusgenio said that stroke survivors face limited skills and get better functional outcome if they are admitted in dedicated stroke units, staffed by experienced physicians, nurses and therapists.

Most persons that survive a stroke have some degree of post-stroke disabilities.

Although rehabilitation does not reverse brain damage, it can substantially improve function leading to better quality of life.

Persons who have had a stroke are in need of long-term follow-up for preventive strategies, risk factor control, advice and regular checking for disabilities.

Mental health support stroke survivors may experience depression. To improve the quality of life and to facilitate rehabilitation, it is essential that they have access to professional help and receive sustained emotional support from their families and friends.

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KEY TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
US Embassy Charge d'Affairs Lorlie A. Bissett hands over the ceremonial key to the Law Enforcement Training Center building to Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn, during turnover rites held in Hagonoy Hills, Barangay Sta. Lourdes, Puerto Princesa City on Oct. 12. The 400-seat "classroom-type" lecture facility with a dormitory that can hold up to 90 people and main hall costing P102,000-in-all is turned over by the City of Puerto Princesa. It was the first time such facility was turned over by the US government to a local government unit.

Saved by St. Luke's.

She was sprawled on the floor when I entered the room. Unconscious. But both her arms twitching uncontrollably.

Not the panicking type, I rushed my tita to the nearby hospital.

"Stroke 'yan", said the doctor.

But the troubled look on his face made me nervous.

"Our neurosurgeon isn't here but we are already trying to locate him", he said nonchalantly, but looking worried.

After almost an hour, there was still no sign of the neurosurgeon.

Feeling helpless and hopeless, I did what I should have done in the first place.

Dapat sa St. Luke's agad. So we rushed her there.

At St. Luke's the doctors attended to my tita with dispatch.

They have a Brain Attack Team, a rapid response team of doctors for stroke patients.

The neurosurgeon subjected my tita to tests with care and concern, using what I observed must be the latest technology. *(I found out later that it was a Philips 256-slice CT scanner that captured images in detail and in 3-D)*

Lulu C. Cruz and her 'Tita Vicky Dipper

"Ruptured aneurysm", the doctor d iagnosed with professional confidence.

"We've moved her already to the operating room". "No problem", he reassured us.

And, true enough, barely six hours later, my tita and I were already having an animated conversation, as if nothing happened.

(Imagine if we had waited for that missing neurosurgeon at the other hospital? I shudder at the thought.)

Thanks to the expert doctors, and the advanced technology available to them, St. Luke's saved my tita's life.

The lesson? *Dapat St. Luke's agad, sa simula pa.*

The surprise: *"Hindi naman pala mahal sa St.Luke's".*

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GMA-Dinky encounters

By Lolit B. Salcedo Jr.

THE RELATION between erstwhile allies Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman is professional, the latter said yesterday.

Soliman, who was at the House of Representatives recently to help defend the Department of Social Welfare and Development's proposed P34.1-billion budget for 2011, said she and her former boss had managed to greet each other when they chanced upon one another at the House.

"We have greeted each other when we crossed paths in the House," Soliman told reporters yesterday.

"She was professional toward me and I treat her same to her," she said.

But she also said they have not talked yet.

Soliman also said she respects Arroyo's desire as a lawmaker, and in the same way, Arroyo respects her tasks as a Cabinet member.

Arroyo had heavily questioned on the floor the P21 billion for the conditional cash transfer program, which is administered by the DSWD.

The former president, who had started the CCT in the country, said the Aquino administration's expansion of the program to cover 2.3 million families, from one million in 2014, was irresponsible, as well as ambitious and unrealy.

Correction

IN THE OCT. 15 ISSUE, a story on the Second Front Page—"Sampaguita Int. killed in ambush"—mistakenly identified Abdul Asnawie Jr. as the governor of Maguindanao. Asnawie Jr. is the former mayor of Datu Unsay; his father, Andal Ampatuan Sr., is the former governor of Maguindanao.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday: October 20, 2010
29th Week in Ordinary Time
Feast of the Canon

1st Reading: Eph 3:2-12
Gospel: Lk 12:39-48

Jesus said to his disciples, "Pay attention to this: if the master of the house had known at what time the thief would come, he would not have let his house be broken into. You too must be ready, for the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect." Peter said, "Lord, did you tell this parable for us, or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "Imagine, then, the wise and faithful steward whom the master sets over his other servants to give them food rations at the proper time. Fortunate is the servant whom the master on coming home finds late doing his work. Truly I say to you, the master will put him in charge of all his property.

"The servant who knew his master's will, but did not prepare to do what the master wanted, will be punished with many blows; but the one who did what deserved a punishment without knowing it shall receive fewer blows. Much will be required of the one who has been given much, and more will be asked of the one entrusted with more."

Commentary:

"Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given."

There is none of us whose progress the Almighty does not watch, help, and inspire to others.

Whatever much—however little—we have, we are responsible for giving to those who have even less.

COA tells Pagcor Philweb Internet casino deal not fair to government

By Leila B. Salaverria

PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) should rethink its deal with Philweb Corp. for Internet casino operations so that the government would receive its fair share of winnings, according to the Commission on Audit (COA).

But Pagcor rebutted COA's claims and defended its deal with Philweb, pointing out that it was a much better agreement compared to another Internet casino deal it had earlier.

The COA, in its 2009 report on Pagcor, said that Philweb's fees and the cash management of Pagcor's Internet gaming operations were disadvantageous to the government.

Philweb manages Pagcor's Internet casino operations under its Intellectual Property License and Management Agreement (IPLMA) in 2006.

The IPLMA, which was renewed in 2009 and would last until 2012, also gave Philweb the exclusive right to distribute Pagcor's intellectual property rights to software systems, and provides it with functional assistance to run Internet casinos.

According to the COA, Pagcor should renegotiate its deal with Philweb, and that Pagcor itself should handle the cash management of its Internet casinos so that it could better control and maximize its earnings.

P14M in savings

Pagcor puts Philweb's signed agreement for the cash management of the Internet casino even though the gaming corporation could better perform the task, the COA said.

"Had Pagcor handled the management of the Internet casino operations, the total amount of P14,707,680 could have been saved including the time value of money for the years 2007 to 2009," it said.

Under the IPLMA, Philweb, as the e-games proponent, would provide the technical marketing and cash management services to Pagcor's Internet casino operations. In return, Philweb would get 40 percent of the net winnings.

Pagcor also paid Philweb a 10-percent software license fee even if Philweb has no intellectual software capability, since it essentially acts as a middleman between Pagcor and Real Time Gaming Holdings Limited, which owns the software, the COA noted.

Besides this, they also disclosed to Pagcor and Philweb on a 58:42 percent and 60:40 percent basis, while 2 percent of casino winnings as operator's incentive was also allocated for programs to promote the Internet casino.

Service expenses

Philweb also receives .5166 percent of net casino winnings as capital allowance fee, which is given for payment of winnings and redemption of account balances.

Pagcor, for its part, told the COA that Philweb's share of 40 percent of net winnings had to cover for other obligations such as training, customer service and marketing expenses.

Philweb had to provide hardware and other equipment necessary to operate the software games. It also had to hire 100 personnel and upgrade the hardware in order to expand the casino's operations, according to Pagcor.

Pagcor further said that its 60-percent share of net winnings from Philweb, representing equivalent of 69 percent of gross winnings, was higher compared to the 15 percent of gross winnings that it had gotten from SAGE Internet casino.

The lawsuits called up Philweb president Jerome Velden, but he declined to comment.

The audit agency also said that Pagcor should just deal with RTG Holdings Limited directly since them was no need for it to go through Philweb for the software programs.

The COA noted that prior to the signing of the IPLMA on June 1, 2006, Philweb entered into a software license agreement with RTG Holdings on May 16, 2006. RTG had agreed to allow Philweb to use its licensed programs for Pagcor's Internet casino operations.

Middleman

"Apparently, Philweb Corp. got its license from RTG for the proprietary software it license used in Internet casino operations which Pagcor is paying the 10-percent software license fee to Philweb which has no intellectual software capability but acted as just a middleman between Pagcor and RTG Holdings Limited," the COA said.

But Pagcor pointed out that while the software for the games does not belong to Philweb, it provided the other system requirements necessary for the Internet casinos operations.

Violation

The COA also said that after RTG's entry into Pagcor's Internet casino operations, the Software Licensing Fee that Philweb would get, and which was originally set at 2.5 percent of net casino winnings, was increased to 10 percent of casino winnings. The increase was made on July 6, 2006, just a month after the IPLMA signing, and on the same day that the RTG software was installed.

According to the COA, the increase in the license fee violated the IPLMA, which states that the agreement should not be changed unless it is done in writing and signed by a representative of both parties. The IPLMA amendment was only signed on Sept. 13, 2007.

The 7.5 percent in software licensing fees paid to Philweb from July 6, 2006 to Sept. 13, 2007 should also be refunded, because the fees should not have been increased so fast, it.

But Pagcor disputed the recommended refund and said that the increase in the fee did not go to Philweb but to RTG. It said the Pagcor Board approved the shift on June 20, 2006, along with the renewed software licensing fee. The IPLMA amendment also stated that the increased fee would be effective when the RTG was implemented.

The shift to RTG also generated more income for the gaming corporation, Pagcor added.

Pagcor bought . . .

From page A1

dress chair Helene Dimaano, bought the condominium in Bonifacio for P5.4 million each to P5.31 million each. The purchases were purportedly made to provide employees with decent and affordable housing.

The new Pagcor management interviewed to sell the units to its employees at easy payment terms with a 20-year repayment period, but Bautista said so far "there are no takers."

"There were seven employees who expressed interest but that's it. There's nothing final," she added.

Bautista said if no employees come forward to buy the units, Pagcor was thinking of using them as prizes in casino raffles.

"But that is still only a possibility. We are still studying that. There is nothing definite," she said.

Unnecessary and unwise

The Commission on Audit (COA) said that the purchase was unnecessary because Pagcor took out a loan to it and that the money could have been better used for revenue generation or priority projects. It recommended that the condominium units be sold.

Bautista said that Pagcor was also studying if its officials involved in the deal were legally liable for values that COA said were also an "unwise" deal.

The bureau is said to give the sale of Makati, though his spokesperson Mel Robles, but Robles did not answer text messages and calls made to his two mobile phones.

While the agency initially said that the condos were for its employees, a later said COA that the condos were for "very important persons" but in Pagcor's opinion only the sale branch that had to hotel accommodations for its guests.

Unoccupied, idle

Reasons cited cited the COA finding that the units were unoccupied and remained idle since their purchase.

"No, not even one. There units were not occupied," Bautista said.

Pagcor insiders noted that the condos were located near Aseana Park, where the casino and El Hotel. the incident can apparently work-ended for their use due services, among traffic problems in the area.

Committed contributions

Bautista said that Pagcor was also committing the committed contributions to the Wetland Environment Fund (EEF) of the National Museum and the Early Child Care and Development (ECCD) Program.

She said that of the P175-million remaining balance to be paid to the MIF, P111 million was already available while another transfer of P56 million was expected to be approved within the year.

For the ECCD, Pagcor had already given P1.262 billion to the Department of Local Welfare and Development and the gaming agency was waiting for another formal request from the agency before it releases another P500-million, Bautista said.

'Explosive, not gas, blasted Glorietta 2'

From page A1

of Malacañang.

In an interview with the business on the third anniversary of the explosion that killed 13 people and injured more than 100 others, Sollano, the leader of the Army Explosives and Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit that studied in the mall in response, called for a renewed probe.

A little over a year ago, Sollano was backbroken and says that he would've soon due to a condition that caused body swelling and extreme pain in his joints and bones.

But after a priest heard his confessions on his birthday on Aug. 1, 2009, he suddenly felt better.

And Sollano: "I thought I was going to die. It was a miracle I got up. Maybe I have a calmness to say that (Glorietta was bombed.

"Whatever gas is out of the picture. Any scientist who would visit the [mall] basement would say the same thing. I'm sure here, will affirm. I still wish the people would know the truth."

Only one leak

Sollano says he now walk around, albeit with a bit of stiffness in some joints and fingers. He walked with a pained expression on his face, as if eager to get himself of a dirty secret.

An eight-year EOD veteran who has responded to many bombing cases, Sollano said his initial look at the eight-story atrium of the mall's first floor was enough to tell him that a high-explosive device was used. Blasts he and his team went to the basement, he became all the more convinced.

"From what I saw—the dome in the roof of the basement and the damaged steel [columns]—I concluded that it was caused by a very very powerful blast effect of a high explosive," Sollano said.

"One look and I knew it because of my experience. All the offending I got in explosives was good. But you still need experience, still indications pointed to a high explosive," he said.

Sollano said the bomb might have been triggered "remotely/timely," or lit manually with a fuse and put inside a damaged tank in the basement. "It could have been TNT, C4, flammal or composition B. There was also a cigarette pack on top of the tank that would have been used to trigger the bomb," he said.

What clinched it for him was a blackened plate's tag that, he said, would have held the bomb.

"The (PNP) Philippine National Police) and the other investigators were all there with me when I made that discovery," he said.

The plastic tag was later shown to have contained RDX, a chemical compound used to make C4 explosives. "But even without it, I know it was a high explosive. The tag was just confirmation," he said.

If the Palace says...

But Ginga took a detailing turn, according to Sollano in his account.

The rounds of a police investigative to him after his discovery—that "no matter how large this bomb is, when Malacañang says it's just a firecracker," "was the first sign that things were not going right.

"I felt that I was called by his superior, Gen. Fernando David, then the chief of the Army Support Command and now Armed Forces chief of staff.

David said a U.S. Senior Civic of the Army's G3 (or Intelligence branch) was requesting Sollano to account for the C4 explosives that Sollano said he used in the disablement. Even if the explosives were marked as evidence, Sollano made an accounting of them anyway.

In succeeding days, Sollano's men told him, quoting news reports on TV, that police investigators were claiming he had planted the device in the mall.

"I couldn't eat. I lost weight. I have cried the long have been planted when the PNP says they're when I recovered it?" he said.

In one TV report, Sollano saw then PNP Director General Jesus Versoza that the Ginga had tested positive for RDX.

"I was relieved that I was right, confirmed that a high explosive was used," he said.

But then his men also told him of an alleged meeting in the Palace, where the President was supposed to have told the generals to make it look like it was methane gas that had caused the explosion.

"So the tide turned against me," he said.

Special project

Sollano began to feel like he was being watched.

"I had survelliance training, too. So I told General David that I was being followed," he said. David told him that if had a gun and that if they confronted a "special project" on me, I would fight back," he said.

He "special project," he explained, he meant his disappearance and summary execution.

The next how Sollano recounted the succeeding events:

He was repeatedly visited by police investigators but he did not speak with them "because I was feeling the whitewash and I didn't want to be part of it."

Sometime in November 2007, Sollano received instructions from Alexander Yano, the then Army commanding general. Report to the then Southern Police District headquarters, a member of the Feliciano Commission that looked into the causes of the 2005 Oakwood mutiny.

Sollano said in a phone interview he understood Arroyo's position that granting amnesty could pose problems for the country's stability.

"That's true in the case of Honasan and company. The compassion seemed to destroy the reliability of the military. So the core of the soldiers, the motivation was good government. How do you compare the two?"

Arroyo was the lone dissenter when the Senate reinstituted on rules and on peace, amnesty and reconciliation approved the amnesty proclamation for Trillanes and 300 soldiers.

He refused the chamber to enact Malacañang's [illegible] Sep. Rodolfo Biazon proposed that civilian and military courts promulgate their rulings on the rebel soldiers before Congress concurs with the proclamation.

Biazon, chair of the House defense committee, said court rulings on the guilt or innocence of those charged would first be rendered moot and academic by the proclamation.

He said those that would be acquitted by the courts would not be covered by the proclamation, hence their reinstatement should be [illegible].

"A ruling of guilt or innocence is therefore important to separate those found guilty or may be found guilty from those who were already acquitted or may be acquitted," he said in a statement.

The courts, whether civilian or military, must be allowed to finish the cases pending before them, Biazon continued.

"Those decisions may simplify the grant of amnesty. Those decisions should be made and promulgated preferably before the amnesty proclamation is put into effect by the commencement of Congress," he said.

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives will take up the proclamation after they resume sessions on Nov. 8.

Cesarion Aquino, who was completed to power following the ouster of ferdinand Marcos' master in 1986, granted amnesty to over 450 political prisoners, including Navy and Marine officers who staged seven coup attempts against her predecessor.

Aquino's amnesty proclamation was issued on Sept. 25, 1986, or more than a month before the February 1987 constitution was ratified

Baby George mom wants to take him home

From page A1

According to Soliman, the woman's employer in Qatar sexually abused her, causing her pregnancy. The pregnancy prompted her employer's wife to send her home. She had not even been given her proper wages as a house helper in the Middle Eastern country.

"She believes she didn't survived because God wants him to live so that she could take care of him. She strongly believes this," Asikin said. "The recommendation is that she is ready to care of the child. We just need to look at the conditions and to process her family."

Officials have chosen not to publicly divulge the name of the mother for reasons of privacy.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is setting up a reunion between mother and child in the coming days, and is inclined to support the mother's decision to raise the baby.

Cordillera community support

The woman will continue to receive counseling because of her ordeal. It would be up to her if she wants to pursue charges against her former boss.

The woman's husband and other members of the family have opened up their arms to baby George and want to adopt him, according to Soliman.

Even the local community in the Cordillera, where the woman's family lives, has rallied around them, supporting their decision to bring Baby George home and understanding the circumstances that led to the woman's situation, Soliman said.

The community has decided to take care of the family and to keep quiet about the incident, which has been kept secret from the woman's two other young children.

'She wanted him to live'

DNA tests done by the National Bureau of Investigation and the National Science Research Institute of the University of the Philippines have confirmed that the woman—who gave birth to Baby George on a Manila-bound Gulf Air flight—is the boy's mother, Soliman said in a press briefing.

Social workers and psychologists of the DSWD have said it will be good for the woman's health and peace of mind to see her baby, she said. The woman has so much regret and shame over what had happened, she added.

Soliman also said the woman never had the intention of abandoning the baby and was planning to give him to another couple but she was unexpectedly ordered to go home and decided to her giving birth on the plane.

"She understands that there are moments in a parent's mind when you are desperate, that in your confusion you do not do the right thing. We think that is what happened. She really wanted the child to live. She did not plan to abandon him," Soliman said.

Because of this, the DSWD has decided it is time for the mother and child to meet. DSWD-National Capital Region director Thelma Sicaluna said department officials may schedule the reunion after Baby George recovers from his cuts yet, which he got on Monday.

Mother's right

Soliman said she was inclined to support the mother's decision to take care of the child. But another option—letting the mother's sister adopt Baby George—is still remains, she said, adding the decision will depend on talks between the family and the DSWD.

"You all know that many want to give him a good future, aside from his mother. But our view is the mother has a greater rights to care for her child, especially if her situation is okay. It's also the child's right to be with his own mother," Soliman said.

She said the DSWD would continue to monitor the baby's condition if it was denied of that he should live with his real family.

Baby George's mother is doing well, Soliman said. Initially, after being placed under DSWD custody she could not eat. She also had been afraid to sleep alone in the beginning.

But as the days went by, her condition improved. Now, she relaxes well with other people and follows the rules of the center where she is staying, the DSWD said.

Tearful reunion

The woman's husband and her father, who have come to visit her, underwent her situation. They plan to go to a tearful reunion in the DSWD, Ruidera said.

DSWD officials said the bond between Baby George's mother and her husband was strong and that he understood that his wife herself was a victim.

The mother has also been giving her breast milk to her child, even if they have not met. Soliman said the mother had pumped out her breast milk, and this was delivered to Baby George.

Baby George is also doing well. He is active, has a good sucking reflex and has no abnormal signs or symptoms, the DSWD said.

The discovery of the newborn baby in the Gulf Air plane's trash bin last month shocked many and triggered an outpouring of sympathy for the infant, as well as offers to adopt him. He was named George Francis, after Gulf Air's male name.

BABY: George Francis is denied or by nurses after he was found abandoned inside the lavatory of a Gulf Air plane at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Sept. 12, 2010. PHILSTAR

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PHILIPPINE BAR ASSOCIATION (PBA)

CELEBRATES LAW DAY IN OCTOBER

The Philippine Bar Association (PBA) celebrates *LAW DAY* tonight, 20 October 2010 at 7 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental Manila at Makati City.

PBA traces its roots to the Colegio de Abogadas de Filipinas which was organized on April 1891. The PBA was incorporated in 1958 and counted as its incorporators legal luminaries like former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga, Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando, Justice Jose B.L. Reyes, Senator Lorenzo M. Tañada, Attys. Francisco Ortigas, Jr., Martin Laurea and Federico Agrava. The 119-year old PBA is the oldest, voluntary bar association of lawyers in the Philippines.

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Bar Association, Inc. on your Law Day Celebration and Induction Ceremonies.

Your association plays a crucial role in ensuring that our nation administers a justice system that is fair, equitable, and mindful of contributing to a society that values the worth of every citizen. Providing an impartial opportunity to obtain practical justice is not a word that has always been part of our Social Contract with the Filipino People, and we are glad to have you with us.

We all have agreed on a Covenant for Change – to develop an economy that benefits everyone, to strengthen institutions of justice, and to finally put the Filipino on top of the national agenda. We have already taken the first steps towards implementing these changes, but we will still need you by our side, so that together, we can fulfill the potential of our great nation.

We can now feel that our all-out war against corruption, righteous anger, and a culture of winning only at all costs for right and for a seemingly impenetrable darkness. With this people on our side, let us stop being about the genuine and lasting change that we have long been yearning for.

Congratulations to your new set of officers!

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
President
Republic of the Philippines

Congratulations to the Philippine Bar Association, Inc. on its Law Day Celebration!

After two (2) decades unscrupulous your association for living up to its oath since 1891. Throughout the years, the PBA has maintained a constant watch to maintain the rule of law. The continuous dedication of your members is vital in maintaining justice and equality in our nation. Our society today calls for more action from all of you in order to continue living by your oath.

I commend every member of your association for serving the needs of people from all walks of life. May you never get tired of upholding the rights of the people. Your action remains hope to the oppressed and distinguished sector of our society. All of you give hope for these people. I pray that God bless and protect you as you continue to guide the Filipinos out of the dark and in harmony of the Constitution.

Always remember that every good act will always have a meaningful result. I wish the best for your organization and I hope we can work hand in hand as we fight against injustice and inequality in our country.

More power to the Philippine Bar Association.

MARIANO "NONOY" LI
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

I join the officers and members of the Philippine Bar Association in celebrating your Law Day on October 20. Whenever I would like to congratulate the newly elected officers who will be inducted in the same day.

The Philippine Bar Association, being the oldest and most prestigious organization of lawyers in the Philippines, has been relentless in its commitment to promote and uphold the rule of law. Moreover, it has been at the forefront in the legal assistance to the poorest of the poor of our society which earned it honor in hypothesis in strengthening the practice system of the society. Since its inception, hundreds of Filipinos have benefitted from this organization.

I would like to make this opportunity to commend you – the valiant and selfless members of the Philippine Bar Association – for your noble efforts, for a lawyer and for believe in the rule of law. I assure you of my unwavering support for your noble efforts and service.

Mabuhay.

LUIS C. SINCO
Senate President

I extend my cordial greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Bar Association on your Law Day Celebration and Induction Ceremonies on Oct. 20, 2010.

As a leading professional organization in the legal field, the Philippine Bar Association is a key player in upholding the rule of law and the standards of conduct of the profession. May this occasion inspire your members to make justice through the courts and other legal means or seeking redress as accessible, affordable and essential services to our countrymen. Let us ensure that the rule of law across the Filipino's land attained. The campaign for good governance starts with individual integrity and transparency.

Only a house of Representatives will continue to fight what ails in modeling laws aiming to raise public confidence in our justice system. The 15th Congress is faced with important challenges and tasks ahead, and rest assured that we will strive to be a true House for the benefit of all the people of the Philippines.

Our countless progress shall be hastened by our leaders' transparency and the quality of service we provide to our constituents. I count on our renewed partnership to help alleviate poverty, equalize access to justice and ensure the growth at our economy.

Mabuhay!

FELICIANO BELMONTE JR.
Speaker
House of Representatives

To the ladies and gentlemen of the Philippine Bar Association:

I extend my felicitations not only on your celebration of Law Day. My congratulations are to be new set of officers and directors who will be inducted during this year's auspicious ceremonies.

I am pleased to note that the Philippine Bar Association, even after a long and storied history continues to be steadfast in its commitment to the Rule of Law. The most militant legal minds among our nation's lawyers are members of your association. Your ranks, moreover, must be leading upon all of you with pride for having continued their advocacy in a manner worthy of their position. The Court of Appeals is one with you in your noble cause.

The Philippine Bar Association is at the forefront of this understanding. And the law provides a framework and it allows all court officials, government officials and private citizens alike. Having pursuing against the oppression of one by another by mere caprice, and ultimately upholding a cornerstone of our democratic way of life. Indeed, you have remained true to your ancient – to stand unswerve through time, faithful to your oath. On and on the principles and principles of truth. Your recognition of Law Day is considered good. Your presence during the most poignant moments in our legal history is an artistic testimony.

In Law, truth against the enemies of truth and justice. Remain in fraternity.

ANDRES D. BAUTISTA
Presiding Justice

Allow me to congratulate the Philippine Bar Association (PBA) as it holds its Law Day Celebration and Induction Ceremonies today. As the oldest voluntary organization of lawyers in the Philippines, dating as far back as 1891, the PBA occupies a prominent position in the national legal sphere, as well as society as a whole.

As officers of the Court, whose profession revolves around the application of the rule of law, we have a significant stake in ensuring that the law is not superseded by the rule of the wealthy, the powerful and the well-connected. For far too long, however, our democratic institutions have been undermined, precisely by the domination of wealth, power and connections. And our people have suffered the resulting shortcomings.

The prevailing culture of impunity has encouraged the resort to extralegal killings and enforced disappearances. And it has also contributed to corruption in government, from accountability and liability. For a long time, we have been on a downward spiral, where the state of things was not merely normal; it was getting worse.

I appreciate the efforts undertaken by the PBA through the years, to revive impunity, to bolster the rule of law, and to seek meaningful accountability. The PBA condemned the assassination of martial law, investigated violations of human rights during those dark years, and has been a champion of the poor and the underprivileged, zealously advocated on behalf of the human rights of Filipinos, and against government malfeasance and corruption, something which it does to this day.

In the first half of the 20th century, the Department of Justice (DOJ) adopted the Canons of Judicial Ethics, based on principles found in the PBA Code of Ethics. Since then, the DOJ and the PBA have worked closely together, with mutual respect and trust, in the administration of the DOJ's commitment to integrity and honest service. And it is indeed a form of partnership between the PBA and the DOJ. We must forward to building an even more efficient such as this one.

Both the DOJ and the PBA want the development of a Philippine society where the rule of law, and respect for human dignity are paramount. We all benefit when we consistently become a responsible expectation, for all people, all the time. We are all empowered when we hold our leaders accountable and make leaders of change.

Again, congratulations from the DOJ on this important occasion. May our new institutions seek new and innovative ways of upholding the rule of law, so that we can achieve our shared objectives and aspirations.

LEILA M. DE LIMA
Secretary of Justice

Warmest congratulations to the Philippine Bar Association, the oldest voluntary national organization of lawyers in the country, and to your new set of officers led by Atty. Maria Soledad C. Deen-Go.

The pursuit of excellence in the law is a passion. It is a sentiment that is sought and cherished by all. You are members of the legal profession who earn nothing but the best for themselves and for our shared craft. This is what the Philippine Bar Association stands for, and this is what I admire most about the organization.

We will be inspired by the of the Philippines Hypothetical continue close coordination with the Philippine Bar Association in our activities and programs, with the aim of fostering further excellence in the field of law, its brothers and sisters in the legal profession.

ANTONIO EDUARDO B. NACHURA
Officer-in-Charge

JUSTICE TERESITA LEONARDO-DE CASTRO

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Failure to catch Lacson has DOJ chief red-faced

By Nikko Dizon

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima admits to being very embarrassed at the government's inability to find fugitive Sen. Panfilo Lacson, whose whereabouts she described as the "biggest mystery."

"It is embarrassing that up to this point nobody knows where he is," De Lima said in her weekly media briefing at the justice department yesterday.

De Lima noted that despite the cancellation of Lacson's passport, an Interpol alert and advisories to the various Philippine embassies all over the world, nobody has found a trace of the ex-police general.

Lacson, a suspect in the 2000 murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, fled the country last January to escape arrest, claiming that he was being persecuted by the Arroyo administration.

LACSON

Hiding in RP?

De Lima did not discount the possibility that Lacson is actually hiding out in the country, and that law enforcers may not have to go far to look for him.

"The million-dollar question at this point is whether or not Lacson is in the country," she said.

De Lima said she has received information about Lacson's whereabouts which could not be disclosed yet as it is still being validated.

She said she has been constantly asking the National Bureau of Investigation to update her on the NBI's continuing manhunt for Lacson.

De Lima said that she had discussed Lacson's case with President Aquino and had made her reassure public on him.

But she would not disclose what she told the President.

Asked if Mr. Aquino could grant Lacson an amnesty, she said: "Theoretically, anyone who declares that his case is a political offense can always apply for amnesty. But that is something that we need to further assess, if that is a political offense. What we know is that two people were killed."

Hans handcuffs

The justice secretary said she had been told by people claiming to be allies of Lacson that the reason the senator did not want to surrender even to the new Aquino administration is that he could not abide being handcuffed and jailed.

"What I gather from certain people, those who claim to be allies of Senator Ping, is that the very reason why he does not want to show up at this point, [is because] he abhors the very idea of being handcuffed and put in jail. It's like he cannot even imagine it happening," she said.

De Lima also said her office was still confirming reports that a United States court has denied anew a petition for writ of habeas corpus filed by former police officers Michael Ray Aquino.

Aquino, a former Lacson aide who is being detained in Fort Bonifacio, is facing the reopening of his case after being convicted for registering a fraudulent Honda Civic used in the Dacer-Corbito double murder. A US court has ordered that he be extradited to the Philippines to face the murder charges.

Vital info

De Lima said she would be meeting soon with the prosecution panel overseeing their "next course of action" given the latest development on Aquino.

Asked about the importance of Aquino's extradition, De Lima said the ex-policeman must have "very vital information" on the case, similar to former police officers Cezar Mancao II and Glenn Dumlao.

Mancao and Dumlao, who were also implicated in the double murder and had already fled to the US, have been extradited to the Philippines and have given information on the case to prosecutors.

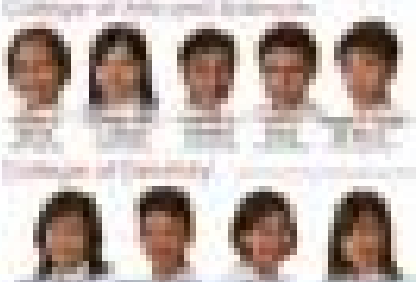
Bloomfields' 'Rockumentary'

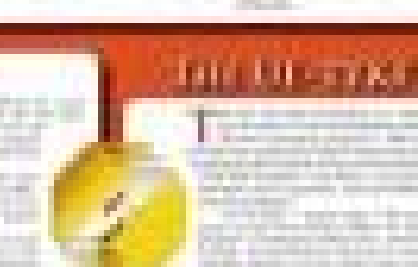
THE BLOOMFIELDS, one of the country's premiere rock and roll bands, launches on Oct. 23 at the Eastwood Plaza Center Tent "Rockumentary" in the first ever video documentary of their beginnings and music videos. The video, which starts at 8 p.m., also gives the fans a sneak peek at the band's original songs that will be part of their upcoming album.

The band is unique in its music evolution as it dishes out '80s and '90s music from the Beatles, Beach Boys, Eraserheads, Bamboo, Parokya ni Edgar, Rivermaya, Eraserheads, Silent Sanctuary, Sugarfree, Sandwich, Wolfgang, Hale, Bamboo, Gary Valenciano, Ryan Cayabyab, Basil Valdez, Apo Hiking Society, Freddie Aguilar, Pilita Corrales, Imelda Papin, Regine Velasquez, Sharon Cuneta, Kuh Ledesma, Lea Salonga, Jose Mari Chan, Ogie Alcasid, Gary Granada, Rico Blanco, Yeng Constantino, Sarah Geronimo, Jaya, Kitchie Nadal, Aiza Seguerra, Jed Madela, Erik Santos, Christian Bautista, Martin Nievera, Nina, Ariel Rivera, Rico J. Puno, Noel Cabangon, Florante

The Future Begins Today.

THE UE-TAN YAN KEE FOUNDATI





ON, ING. SCHOLARS, SY 2010-2011

SCHOLARSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST

INQUIRER

OPINION

Prepared for 'Juan'

METRO MANILA may be heaving a sigh of relief after having been mostly spared by the wrath of Supertyphoon "Juan," but it should empathize with the plight of Northern Luzon that bore the brunt of the storm's destructive cruising and must not rest its guard lest it be caught (backdoored) again the way it was during "Ondoy." The supertyphoon has largely brought damage to the northeastern corridor of the archipelago, geographically the first landfall of storms and the most drenched and battered by Pacific howlers. Despite being weather-beaten and storm-tossed, the geographical location of that region and its attuned susceptibility have somehow also ensured that its beautiful flora and fauna are preserved and renewed, especially from the depredation of greedy loggers and the despoliation of mountainside illegal miners, since it is used to typhoons and monsoon rains, that region has always been relatively prepared for their detrimental viewing and devastating going: it is used, for instance, to the flooding and landslides triggered by storms and powerful rains, in that it has been prepared for their contingencies, and if not, since it's used to them, it's at least able to brew and gain strength is all, like Hong Kong training the steepest.

EDITORIAL

The run-up to Juan has seen a remarkable show of a sense of urgency and unity between civil defense agencies and the private sector, especially the media. By providing relatively reliable and regular weather bulletins, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has shown that there's still hope after all for Pagasa. The media relentlessly reported the weather forecasts. By dwelling on the regular bulletins, the Department of Education was able to call off classes on time in affected areas and shield schoolchildren from unnecessary exposure to the storm. In addition, effective civil defense measures were put in place by local and national officials in a commendable show of disaster preparedness.

Now that the storm has passed, relief and rescue measures are in high gear. Perhaps because of communications problems and the relative remoteness of the northeast and the powerful Sierra Madre that runs through it, the national government has not been able to fully assess the extent of the damage caused by Juan. It is important that a full inspection and assessment of the damage be made so as to determine what immediate relief the victims need. While the metropolis was spared, the government should be reminded that thousands in the north need help sustained in order to survive and rebuild their lives.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country that Juan bypassed are not immune to the effects of the destruction wrought by it. The typhoon has damaged productive agricultural lands, and this will have a bearing soon on the national food situation. It is estimated that Juan could have damaged P1.53 billion worth of rice crop in Isabela, the "rice granary of the North," and the normal top rice-producing province in the country, according to the National Food Authority. The NFA added that in the worst-case scenario more than 1.8 million bags of palay in Isabela could have been damaged because Juan unfortunately came in October, the peak of the harvest season in Cagayan and Isabela. Neighboring provinces, such as Nueva Vizcaya, are also known as food baskets, producing rice, fruits and vegetables. We have yet to see the full damage wrought by Juan, and Metro Manila can only brace itself for how the extent of the damage may have ripple effects in the last quarter of 2010.

Meanwhile, Metro Manila and the rest of the country should not relax on their efforts at disaster-planning and readiness. Last month's first anniversary of "Ondoy" yielded millennium and discussions that by and large revealed that a year after the tragedy, the government still had not come up with an overarching civil defense plan to prevent another disaster of Ondoy's magnitude. Worse, citizens and their leaders have gone back to their old ways, building settlements along creeks and waterways that provide the natural mechanisms to floods. Open spaces that provide breathing room to a polluted metropolis and could serve as evacuation sites during disasters have continued to be left to the mercies of developers and speculative capitalist practices. And the police continue to be an hopeless lost in civil defense as they are in public safety. It seems their old and dangerous habits die hard.

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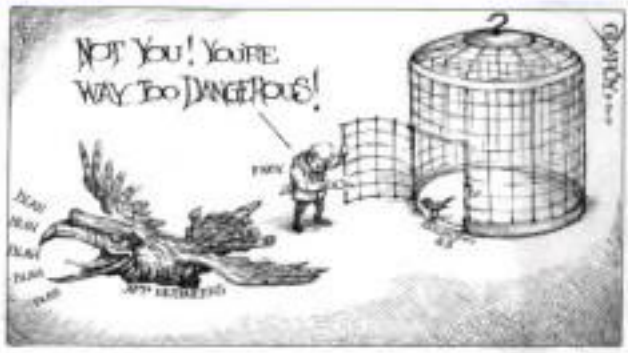

Contradictions in handling of Wawa Dam proposal

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ALTHOUGH THOUGH TOAST (forth-eyed) hundreds or millions or peso worth of property crops and infrastructure but it doesn't be issues-of-officials of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB). Rains brought by the supertyphoon raised the water level in the reservoir of Angat Dam, the principal source of domestic water supply for Metro Manila and irrigation water for Bulacan and Pampanga rice farms, and other Luzon farms. Otherwise we would surely suffer, again, a serious water shortage this summer.

But it is ironic and paradoxical that we have regular water shortages despite the fact that we are surrounded by water and we are drenched with too much water that we literally swim in it every rainy season! We have many rivers and some reservoirs and dams can be seen to the east. But have built dams across some of the big rivers but they are not enough for our needs. We have to build more in some of the smaller watercourses as China has done.

We already have one such dam-dam, with plenty of water behind it, only 11 kilometers from the metropolis which proponents would that water. All that is needed is to put pipes from this dam to Lucban Dam from which the water flows to the Mendiola plant for drinking and from there to the consumers. A private company has already offered to do this—at no cost to the government. Note: "at no cost to the government"; the company will shoulder all the costs. But for some strange reason, the MWSS and NWRB pretend that this does not exist and their company do not exist.

The pretended reason is only guessed that I am referring to Wawa Dam to justify Mendiola and to the San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders and Developers Group (SLRB), a partner in the construction of the big Cavanan Dam, about which I have written three to many times during the past two years. Let me repeat briefly the record. During all the time I have talked repeatedly why the government does not develop Wawa Dam and end Metro Manila's water problem, but our water agencies until now have not given any satisfactory explanation.

Wawa Dam was the principal source of water for Manila until Angat Dam in Bulacan was constructed and the MWSS abandoned it. But because of Metro Manila's ever-growing population, the supply from Angat is no longer enough for its needs and Wawa should be harnessed again, and there is SLRB willing to do that for them. SLRB keeps following up its proposal but the MWSS and the NWRB are not willing even to tell it the time of day. That apparently has been going on, many years, for the last two decades. Having all that time, Metro Manila has been suffering from periodic water shortages, while millions of gallons of water pass every August from Wawa down the Mendiola and Pasig rivers to Manila Bay where the water is lost.

Following last month's "Ondoy" rains and storm surges, I will try again to renew the attention of the MWSS and the NWRB (whose officials are probably too busy counting and spending their generous bonuses and allowances), and of President Aquino and Congress (who annually lavish billions). I will concentrate on the contradictions from the MWSS and the NWRB regarding their continuous neglect of the people's water needs and their indifference to a free offer to supply that need.

The MWSS, through its officer in charge Maria Cora, said Wawa water is dirty. But it gives Manila Water (MWSI) permission to tap Pinatubo water (again). In fact, it allowed MWCI to collect an extra P732 million from its customers, allegedly for the development of Wawa Intend. MWCI used the money for some other purpose. No comment from the agency.

In meeting SLRB's offer, the MWSS and the development of Wawa has to be bidded out. But the MWSS granted MWCI permission to develop Wawa without any public bidding.

Cora further explained that a water distributor cannot develop water sources as these would be an monopoly. MWCI is a water distributor, so why was it given permission to develop Wawa and collect in advance from its consumers?

The law also says that once a company abandons a water source (such as the MWSS abandoning Wawa), it cannot get that privilege again. But because MWCI cannot legally develop Wawa, the MWSS applied to develop it again with the intention of passing on this privilege to MWCI.

Three letters of MWSS to NWRB from 2001 to 2004 said, "Relative to our earlier request for the lifting of our suspended water rights to Wawa River under Water Permit 9500 or 0.340 CMS of water per can before dated July 2, 2001, we would like to request instead for a water water right in the amount of 0.50 CMS (50 MLD) at the same location of the existing Wawa Dam in lieu of the said suspended water rights." It is clear in these letters that the MWSS is aware that its old water permit belongs to SLRB. Whether the MWSS created a water permit in 2008 to the WMSS-MWCI by lifting the suspension or issuing a new water permit, the MWSS still has to get through due process in accordance with the Water Code of the Philippines by first giving due notice and hearing to SLRB.

The law further states that once a water right has been granted to somebody, it can no longer be given to another applicant. SLRB's application and permit for Wawa dates back to 1995. MWCI does not even have any water application. Its application for a water allocation was only in 1997. Yet its water permit is dated April 22, 2004, a year after it got its P732 million collection from consumers.

Right and just

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DIDN'T write about it last week because I thought it would go to with neither less nor fanfare. That is the amnesty bribe given the military rebels. Possibly I don't know what the resistance is all about. Well, maybe I do know, assuming as it does in part from Cloma Mindoro and demolished on dinner after in Congress.

At the very least, the notion that the amnesty will encourage all sorts of things, or not anything, groups to the military to accept peace rights and again is faulty. The upstage were the last seven groups to accept the thousand at GRP, and are now applicable. They are now applicable because, with one exception, they had to do with GRP being a fake president. The one exception is Antonio Trillanes' Oakwood mutiny, which took place before May 2004.

It is at least going to be non-refundable for some time. It took 15 years for GMA to explain what Ferdinand Marcos did, which was to rule without a mandate. Though this counters being numerous, that could always happen sooner than we think. But if so, then the amnesty will really have been precious for encouraging uprisings, military or otherwise, against such a rule.

It is a self-defeating measure to the rebels that will in fact encourage the wrong things. It will encourage the military to just withdraw on despite seeing the institution they belong to, or even form, being perceived as every step to get normalcy in power and keep coming in power. It will encourage the bishops to say people who are wrong to complain about corruption sending the vote, everybody needs the vote opposing what they say, they only have to do it. It will encourage the people to become passive and cynical. Telling themselves there are more important things in life than protesting a ruler who has no business ruling them, though those we know what that is.

The real question is not why the rebels have been fired, the real question is why GMA has not been jailed. When it was GMA who amnestied a coup, the rebels merely recanted a coup. Wrong. When it was GMA who was instrumentally successful, the second were merely impossible and so. As may be today, or the fact of it, to pull it off in a coup or to coup by bullet, or the equal lack of it. A coup by "Hello, Garci" is fact in much a coup as "Hello, General." The fact that Congress upheld GMA's rule, particularly by dismissing the impeachment bid against her despite so patent a crime, did not make her legitimate, it made it more illegitimate. It did not make the rebellion less palatable, it made it more understandable. It showed that, as in Marcos' time, since the law was used to thwart lawbreakers, when the lawless needs were used to justify the rebellion, when all the instruments of society were lining up to gang-rape democracy, you had no choice but to rebel.

In fact, it's only Trillanes who ought to be given amnesty. That is so because he mounted the thirteenth century against a perfectly legitimate president in GMA's democratic regime, personally. Somewhat understandably, by People Power. Eminently presumptive a forgiveness of sin, an absolution from a transgression, a pardoning of a crime. If Trillanes had sinned, had transgressed, had broken the law. So was his action of drawing attention to the tax, transgression in crime would truly do not say if Trillanes is not to charge groups in the military to mount coups every time they get pissed off.

The others had not. They had risen to oust a usurper. They did not deserve to be given amnesty. They deserved to be given medals.

But I agree with all those who ask why Pvt Lee has not released as well the Morong 43, the group of health workers held in detention since early this year. They have a good question. The Morong 43, which at one point in-

Aquino coddling coup makers

MILITARY REBELLIONS in the Philippines, as a catalyst of political change, started with the 1986 People Power Revolution. Twenty-four years after Edsa 1, the specter of military coups continues to haunt the constitutional democracy that sprung from that storied upheaval. Coups represent the other face of the development of a turbulent and unstable democracy.

As to an upshot of that lingering fear, President Aquino signed on Oct. 12 Proclamation No. 30 granting amnesty to Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV, now a senator's aid more than 300 soldiers he led in three military uprisings: the Oakwood mutiny on July 27, 2003, the standoff at the Marine head quarters in February 2006, and the takeover of the Manila Peninsula Hotel on Nov. 29, 2007.

In granting amnesty, the President said it was meant to "foster national reconciliation," even though he did not face the dire threat of military unrest. There was no apparent compelling reason for him to use the amnesty to get broad support from the military. He won the May 2010 election with one of the most resounding victories in the history of the country.

What prompted him to proclaim amnesty. What has been bothering him? There were no meetings of discussion in the military. He has neither arrested the authority or commander in chief of the military, the chief of staff, the vice chief of staff, General Ricardo David, Jr., nor any senior generals deemed loyal to him to replace an appointee of his predecessor, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. He had appointed General David, who graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in the same batch as Trillanes, Class 1983. There was no issue over the prerogative of the President appoint to the military high command officers he absolutely trusted.

Could one not consulted by the President on the grant of amnesty to the Trillanes rebel, but like a good soldier, he said aptly: "It's part of the political decision of the President... The AFP ltd. has no policy of the President."

Many have been expressed that the amnesty might send the wrong message that institutions of

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

force could shape coup plots to usurp power or limit. The amnesty has the marks of political accommodation. Trillanes backed the campaign of then Senator Aquino for the presidency while the officer was detained in military barracks as he underwent trial on charges of rebellion.

Trillanes was elected to the Senate in 2007. He has not been allowed to take his seat to perform his senatorial duties. While under detention, he did not appear repentant for his deeds. On Nov. 29, 2007, while he and his co-accused in the rebellion were supposed to be tried at the Makati Regional Trial Court, they bolted the court and marched to Peninsula Manila, seized it and held a press conference.

In the light of this action, there are doubts were whether Trillanes and fellow rebels would not again engage in seditious activity if they are given amnesty and he is allowed to take his Senate seat.

Two other officers were covered by the amnesty grant which Malacañang said was in keeping with the President's policy of "working reconciliation and all fronts—from the members of the state to rebel soldiers." The Palace denied that it was intended to spin Arroyo, under whose administration the Oakwood mutiny broke out.

Mr. Aquino's recommendation for Trillanes was further accepted by the fact that he granted the amnesty barely two weeks before the scheduled promulgation of the decision on the motion case by the Makati Regional Trial Court.

The amnesty proclamation did not seem to dampen the murderous spirit of another rebel officer, Danilo Lim, a retired brigadier general and former commander of the Army Scout Rangers. Lim said he did not regret the being against the Arroyo administration. "We will always be proud of what we did." Lim joined the marchers a public rally on Friday in February 2006 in Makati City, where it was planned he would lead a mutiny—by a group of soldiers from the Arroyo government.

After learning of the amnesty proclamation, Lim did not lose his aim for mutinous military adventurism. "Soldiers must be ready at all times to fight and defend his country, even if the opponent is the government itself. A soldier who takes his duties seriously shall fight all forms of opposition to protect and serve the nation."

From prior to the February 2006 rally, Lim, who were then holding the rank of captain, led a group of young officers, who appointed on TV as a military junta and declared a coup against the Gloria Arroyo government in 1989.

Not all of the military officers are ecstatic over the amnesty proclamation. Retired Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, who served as AFP chief of staff under the Arroyo administration, expressed doubt that the amnesty would stamp out military adventurism. It was Esperon who ordered the arrest and court martial of Lim and Gil. Ariel Query after the Peninsula Manila standoff in 2007 Bonifacio. In his ordained it a coup attempt.

Since 1986, presidents have declared amnesty for political offenses related to rebellion and sedition. Those presidents included firebrand Marcos foes Corazon Aquino, who succeeded him, and Fidel Ramos, who was instrumental in the ground under military rebellions. Some helped to extinguish the fire of coups.

Coups have been staged in tandem with People Power mass mobilizations, leading to a largely bloodless overthrow of powers. Military leaders asked People Power through the withdrawal of military support from civilian governments. This has proved in Edsa 1 and Edsa 2.

Mr. Aquino is coddling coup makers with his grant of amnesty. There is much to learn from the failure of past amnesties.

Chilean miners

I AM[illegible] surprised by our solution lack of interest in the drama around the rescue of the 33 Chilean miners the other week.

The drama began one Aug. 5 with the collapse of a mine shaft in northern Chile. It took 17 days before rescue teams were able to establish that the miners were still alive, trapped some 688 meters below the ground. They had survived, but had food that could last them only two more days.

Rescue teams had estimated it would not be until Christmas when the miners could be rescued. They could not just come up and run—into the earth. So that would lead to another collapse, burying the miners forever.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Fortunately, the Chilean extremely worked out an alternative, which involved digging a very narrow hole through which a capsule could be inserted. If things worked out with this capsule, Chilean government officials announced, the miners would not have to wait until Christmas to open their families. November was the target date.

It turned out they were able to raise much faster. On Oct. 12, 69 days after the accident, as the entire world watched via CNN and BBC, the Chilean miners were brought, one-by-one, lowering the capsule into the bowels of the earth and bringing up the miners, one at a time. All 33 miners were rescued and are now back with their families, after a hospital of hospitalization for check-ups.

I found the Chilean miners rescue—as the miners nearly daily, fascinated by the way the Chilean were handling the crisis. From the time they established contact with the miners, they were able to use available technologies to increase the survival chances of the miners.

They were then able to work out a way to lower food, water and medicines to the miners and, just as importantly, to use microphones and phones to keep the miners in touch with the world.

The rescue capsule was the crowning achievement of the Chilean efforts. It was largely designed and built by the Chilean themselves. Ben Vallejo, writing in the blog Agham Scientia, points out that after World, Chile has the highest expenditure on science and technology of some developing in product, for science and technology as it should not be surprising that they were able to pull off this engineering marvel.

Josiah and the whale

The rescue efforts involved more than engineering. While the actual rescue of the miners took just a few point, the Chilean went beyond the melodrama and mobilized psychologists and psychiatrists to work with the Chilean miners, communicating through the videocams and phones.

I couldn't help but think of GM Tonomoni Ryan Josiah, who was thrown into the sea and swallowed by a whale, where he had to survive days before God finally made the whale vomit him out.

Think now of the miners—33 Chileans and 1 Bolivian—having to live together in a tiny space deep in the ground for 69 days. The videocams showed them getting and games. Their relatives requested that some of them lost as much as 10 kilos in the ordeal.

All throughout their ordeal, the miners held up, even conducting jokes on camera and often ended their video sessions by singing the Chilean national anthem. It was an amazing test of the human spirit, and I am sure the psychological counseling helped.

I read up and I think long before the rescue, the psychologists had begun to prepare the miners for their new life after their rescue. This included preparations for the onslaught of media and the corporate world, all eager to cash in on the stories of the miners. Offers have been coming in for the miners to appear in all kinds of ads, from schools equipment to swimsuit underwear ads.

The miners have been well advised, and have so far displayed an amazing solidarity, with none of them agreeing to give an interview. They will release their stories together, and share the proceeds of movie and book royalties, although as individuals, they can still accept other offers for advertising or, in the case of one work driver, to become a motivational speaker.

As I wrote last month, there is much to learn from Latin-American countries, whose cultures are so much like our own. (Side has challenged the stereotype about Latin underachieving value we would call "bayan bana" here, resonant with half-baked jobs, completed way behind schedules. At the same time, we can learn from the way the miners united on with their jokes and their singing.

Grim realities

I did want to write, too, about a less publicized, less glamorous side to all this, showing other similarities between Chile and the Philippines. An Associated Press dispatch last weekend talked about the "miners" lives of poverty in a desert area close to the mines, with much drug trafficking and gang wars. So poor were the miners' families that in one case, the relatives filled plastic bags with sand as welcome decorations because they could not afford balloons. That homebuilt has 1 episode living together.

The miners that they employed the "celebrities" has gone bankrupt, so there's no work for them to return to. There's talk about a fund that would give each miner the equivalent of $111,000 each, but no one has seen the money yet.

And while life underground was well controlled, the miners are now back in a real world of social injustice—and indifference. Even the miners' lives of poverty is a dramatic

Obstacle on 'straight path'

LETTERS

"PEND TELLE why Aquino would think twice before leaving him go." (Inquirer, 7/8-11/10)

In society as on the American Underwriters' Fire Co. Putin would like to maintain an image as an indispensable cog in the Aquino administration's machinery owing to his almost a quarter-century friendship with President Aquino. He spoke glowingly of the friendship that has been nurtured through the years under the best and the harshest of times—so deep and so intense that he is one of the very few who can "tame" the President, and whose words the President listens.

Putin said he has developed an almost intimate relationship with the senator's family, especially spoke affirmers with whom he seemed to have been keeping a close knowledge of their every private lives as a J. Edgar Hoover-fashion. It would seem clear he wanted Aquino to face his enemies head on (Pimentel never will protect the P30M from coupe d' etat, which plagued his mother during her presidency. He do not bash P1bay for having personal friendships, like any other normal human being. We understand the President's need for patience but not to the point of risking personal safety and for the security of his administration.

Putin did to what a friend P30M is when the latter was at his side within every minutes or consults him when his father died. Does admiral that is what friends do to have a good rapport with those around and supervision over the national police. This we believe was the reason it took so long for P1bay to name the secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government in the face of the public clamor for Jesse Robredo to be appointed to the position. Putin had to ask for the president of undersecretary but with three counsel over the national police, while Robredo's authority was limited to supervision over local government officials.

This arrangement caused confusion during the Luneta hostage crisis which exposed Putin's incompetence as the police, which he was supposed to supervise, bungled the rescue operation.

The illegal numbers game capos of Bishop Emeritus Oscar Cruz got Putin in a dither over orders to end his police reform term limits to the "running" people and when he belatedly revealed that extension of gambling lords apprached into even as he did not take action to charge him with attempted bribery, even as he substantially refused to testify these accusations.

Putin's achievements have been good s. friend the President is. It is then his obligation to show the President in every how good a friend he is by sparing the President from the difficult decision of telling a good friend to go. He should relieve an irrevocable resignation. He should not let his close friendship with the President for personal gains. He should not stand in the way of a President walking the straight path.

—RAMON BAYOCA,
primer@gmail.net.com

An optimistic look at the population issue

THE EDITORIAL ("Turbulence") of Inquirer Oct. 5 later stated that "The ballooning of our population is a big obstacle to a rapid economic growth. This can be seen in the huge increase of unemployed and underemployed every year, the big need for more school buildings, teachers and teaching devices every school year, the growing number of squatters, hordes of women and hospitals to take care of the sick, etc."

They say there is a big difference between an optimist and a pessimist. Both may see the same bottle of water. The pessimist will say it is "half-empty." The optimist will say it is "half-full." I choose to be an optimist and I hope you all become optimists, because optimists are hopeful and only those who hope will strive to reach their goals.

The editorial conveys a pessimistic outlook as regards our population growth. Such pessimism will not contribute to our development as a nation. I agree that our population is growing at a good rate. In fact, I wish it would grow even more. I would like to see the huge increase in demand for jobs, schools, teachers, hospitals, food, housing, and water so that the driving force to urge our nation to develop.

Let's be more drastic. Is a big population the cause of unemployment? Reason tells us that unemployment is due to the shortage of jobs. Does it now take much our capitalists to create more jobs, is population the cause of the lack of school buildings? Reason tells us we need to build enough to provide more schools. Let the creators of build more schools. Don't you think we'll develop even more if we adopted to creative and optimistic attitude?

An optimist who sees many children and need education will think he can turn me up a new school. Medical doctors who see many patients needing attention and who have the drive will think they can put resources together to set up a new hospital. It is the attitude of a defeatist to blame the drive of the population when to perceive there is a shortage of goods. Historically nations have developed by producing the goods and services that the population needed.

Moreover, preventing births now so entire generations will not be born is immoral, pedestrian, a kind of thinking that lacks realism and optimism. The problems of lack of jobs, schools and health centers are in the present. The solution proposed which is to prevent births in the future not some in other present or future problems. In fact, the problem could be trigger with lower population growths. Just look at all the countries in the world that have negative population growth; they are literally disappearing from the world.

Let's not blame the size of our population for what we lack in order to develop. It's our pessimism, lack of drive and creativity that we should blame. Let's remember that population means people, and people like you and me, that people are the greatest asset of any nation.

—PR. EUGENE L. MACINO,
Lumen Study Center,
111 B. Gonzalez St.,
Loyola Heights, QC

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**In GSM Networks

FEP RONALD SINGSON holds his daughter Samantha upon leaving the Wanchai District Court in Hong Kong where his bizarre drug trafficking was postponed. AFP

HK court postpones Singson drug case

HONG KONG—A Hong Kong court Tuesday adjourned a drug trafficking case against a Philippine lawmaker and music promoter, saying medical records "needed clarification."

Rep. Ronald Singson of Ilocos Sur was arrested by customs officers at Hong Kong's international airport in July and later charged with carrying a vial of cocaine weighing about 26 grams (0.9 ounces) in his hand luggage.

His lawyer, John Reading, asked the district court to adjourn the case Tuesday as they were awaiting for "a specialist's classification" of Singson's medical records.

Judge Peter Sin Kong adjourned the case until Nov. 23 and extended Singson's bail. The lawmaker has paid one million Hong Kong dollars (US$129,000) bail, and two friends paid another one million dollars as surety.

Reading refused to talk to reporters outside the court.

The case was previously adjourned to July when Singson said he was unable to return to Manila because he was undergoing medical treatment.

Singson, 41, has a Manila film star girlfriend and juggles two jobs promoting DJ rhythm and blues acts in the southeast Asian country while holding a seat in the House of Representatives.

He won a second three-year term in May in the seat long held by his family in Ilocos Sur.

The legislator is one of seven children by an estranged wife of Ilocos Sur governor and political kingpin Luis "Chavit" Singson, one of the most colorful and controversial political figures in the Philippines.

The 65-year-old patriarch was in Hong Kong in August to attend his son's bail hearing, and denied at the time that his son was a drug dealer.

"It's not on," he told reporters.

In Hong Kong, the maximum penalty for trafficking a dangerous drug is a fine of five million HK dollars (US$643,000) and life imprisonment. AFP

'Text of decision itself is plagiarism's evidence'

By Nikko Dizon

IN HER SEPARATE dissenting opinion, in which Senior Associate Justice Conchita Carpio Morales concurred, Associate Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno categorically said that Associate Justices Martires del Castillo and his unnamed researcher had both committed plagiarism in drafting and penning the decision on the Vinuya case.

Private Source who, at 50, is the youngest member of the high court. "The majority decision will thus stand against the overwhelming conventions on what constitutes plagiarism. In doing so, the decision bears the sad unimaginable privilege for Philippine jurisprudence, which will from now on have to find a disciplinary response to plagiarism committed by students and researchers on the justification of the majority decision.

"It has also made immaterial the protections of copyright granted to authors by making available to plagiarists 'lack of predilection concept' as a defense to charges of violations of copyright owners' economic rights of the copyright owner committed through lack of attribution."

Sereno said the majority decision had rendered "meaningless" the provision in Section 184 of Republic Act No. 8293 (the Act Describing the Intellectual Property Code and Establishing the Intellectual Property Office, Providing for its Powers and Functions, and for Other Purposes") , or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, that indicates four sources should be properly cited in students' works.

She took particular exception to the claim of Del Castillo's researcher that she had inadvertently omitted the footnotes to properly attribute the quoted works. She said attributions to sources should be "deliberately placed" and "not accidentally inferred."

Text as evidence

Sereno's devastating opinion included a detailed analysis of the Vinuya decision, comparing it to the alleged-ly plagiarized portions of the works of the aforementioned legal luminaries.

"This painstaking parsing paralyzes students of the Vinuya decision as prompted by the footnotes as cues, including international academic laws, to see the Court's action on this plagiarism charge... whether it will in all circles acknowledge that there is a set of conventions by which all intellectual work is to be judged and thus fulfill an ethic as an honest creator or blind itself to the unhappy work of its members," she said, adding:

"The text of the decision itself reveals the evidence of plagiarism. The woeful apology of the legal researcher to the limits of the powers to read her knowledgeable of the gravity of the act of omitting full attribution is an admission that something wrong was committed.

"Her admission that the correct attributions were missing in the process of her work is an admission of plagiarism. The evidence is in the text of the Vinuya decision and the acknowledgment by the legal researcher are sufficient for the determination of plagiarism."

Sereno urged the high court to issue a "resignation" for "no one is to be convicted" in the Vinuya decision.

Case of 'comfort women'

It was in July 2010 that Henry Bogdan and Romel Regalado accused Del Castillo of plagiarizing parts of the works of three eminent international lawyers in writing the court decision that denied the petition of three elderly, 70 "comfort women" led by Lucrecia Vinuya, to compel the Philippine government to obtain a public apology from Japan and provide reparations to victims of sexual abuse during World War II.

The authors and their works supposedly copied by Del Castillo were "A Fiduciary Theory of Jus Cogens" by Evan J. Criddle and Evan Fox-Decent; "Breaking the Silence: Rape as an International Crime" by Mark Ellis, and "Enforcing Erga Omnes Obligations" by Christian J. Tams.

DEL CASTILLO: His words now serious, says Supreme Court's ruling.

UP Law . . .

From page A1

"It's more of a disciplinary action to members of the bar," one of the Inquirer sources said when asked if the high court was considering citing the faculty members for contempt.

Disciplinary action against lawyers ranges from admonition, reprimand, fine, suspension from practice, to disbarment.

Other sources said there was earlier talk that the high court might hold the entire UP Law faculty in contempt.

The sources asked not to be named for lack of authority to discuss the matter with reporters.

One source said the high court might have transferred the UP Law faculty's statement via a via the Code of Professional Responsibility of Lawyers, which lists the duties of lawyers to society and the legal profession, among others.

Specifically, Rule 13.02 states: "A lawyer shall not make public statements in the media regarding a pending case tending to create public opinion for or against a party."

Plagiarism by 'paisanito'

On Aug. 6, the UP Law faculty led by dean Marvic Leonen issued a statement vindicating that plagiarism was committed by the ponente, or writer of the decision, in the Vinuya et al. v Executive Secretary (Alberto Romulo) et al. case.

Without naming Del Castillo, the law professors called on the ponente to resign his position.

But on Oct. 15, the high court voted 10-4 to dismiss the allegation that Del Castillo had plagiarized and misrepresented the works of three eminent foreign law experts, as claimed by lawyers Henry Bogdan and Romel Regalado.

Senior Associate Justice Conchita Carpio Morales and Associate Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno dissented. (See sidebar.) The latter, Presidents Aquino's first appointee to the high court, has issued a separate opinion describing the majority decision as "unfortunate ruling."

Del Castillo did not take part in the deliberations, and Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio was on leave.

In exonerating Del Castillo, the high court also dismissed the UP Law faculty statement and wondered whether it was the mood of the entire faculty or just a few because the original document did not carry the signatures of all the faculty members.

The statement circulated to the media had the abbreviation "Sgd." beside the names of lawyers, former UP Law deans Froilan Bacungan, Pacifico Agabin, Merlin Magallona, and Salvador Tarciso, 18 regular faculty members and 10 lecturers, including former Supreme Court Justice Vicente Mendoza.

The original copy of the statement has been submitted to the high court en banc for the other committee that looked into the case, as directed by the justices in their decision clearing Del Castillo of liability.

'Unacceptable'

According to the UP Law faculty, "the opinions contained in the case of Vinuya v Executive Secretary is unacceptable, unethical and in breach of the high standards of moral conduct and judicial and professional competence expected of the Supreme Court."

The statement added: "Such a fundamental breach endangers the integrity and credibility of the entire Supreme Court, and undermines the foundations of the Philippine judicial system by allowing implicitly the division of cases and the establishment of legal precedents through dubious means."

But the high court said there was no conclusive intent on Del Castillo's part when he used the foreign works as sources for the case decision.

The high court said that based on the investigation conducted by the ethics committee a legal researcher of Del Castillo had admitted accidentally deleting the footnotes that properly attributed the authors' work in the decision.

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12 dead; ₱1.5-billion crop lost; 'Juan' exits

From page A1

By said he could not give a full report of the damage to all coastal areas because the 240-kilometer northeastern shoreline of Isabela remained difficult to reach.

The super typhoon destroyed huge quantities of corn and rice crops, an official said, warning the country could be forced to import more rice.

Nearly 100,000 hectares of rice and corn crops had been destroyed across Isabela, one of the Philippines' key farming regions, Governor Dy said.

The Philippines, the world's largest rice importer, imported 2.4 million tons of rice last year.

Initial field reports are not encouraging, with the governor of the key agricultural province of Isabela estimating 385,000 tons of rice and 60,000 tons of corn will be lost.

Damage to agriculture was initially placed at more than ₱1.53 billion, with rice and "ripening stable farmers taking heavy losses, the Department of Agriculture said.

Assistant Agriculture Secretary Salvador Salazar said the figure was a "conservative" estimate.

The strong winds had damaged after Juan moved off the west coast of Luzon early on Tuesday morning, but a recount is underway to ascertain the extent of the destruction wrought by Typhoon Yolanda, he said.

"Its radius is 500 kilometers so even if it has left the country, rains will continue to affect us, particularly until tonight," said Benito Ramos, head of the national disaster monitoring council.

As of 4 p.m. Tuesday, Juan was spotted 230 km west northwest of Dagupan City, moving at 7 kilometers per hour toward China, said Salazar, Juan moved at 14 kph.

The typhoon carried maximum winds of 175 kph near the center and gusts of up to 210 kph in the open sea.

At 4 p.m., Manila's weather bureau, Aldrine Iturralde, a senior government forecaster, said the typhoon was almost stationary in the South China Sea yesterday morning. A high pressure area northeast of Juan prevented it from moving further for a few hours, he said.

Due to bad weather, eight flights to and from Batanes and Palawan were canceled at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday.

Ferries were suspended in Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon amid fears of flash floods, while rescue workers tried to reach villagers stranded in remote areas that were cut off by the typhoon.

Bari-tree kills 3

Elsewhere in Luzon, nine people were reported killed.

In Pangasinan, a mother and her two children were killed on Monday night in San Nicolas town after a huge tree planted there blew down while the typhoon was raging.

Fatima Ordiola, executive officer of the provincial disaster council, identified the victims as Ana Vidal, 29, and her daughters Ed, 4, and Ian Ogie, 3.

The three were lying on the floor and were sleeping at about 7:30 p.m. when the tree fell on their house.

Their uncle brought to him the member of typhoon-related fatalities in Pangasinan. On Monday morning, Rodito Tolentino, a farmer in Mangayaym town, died after he was hit by lightning.

In Nueva Ecija, the provincial disaster council said Rafael in 40 capiz drowned while he was crossing a river in Carranglan town on Monday night.

Electrocuted

In Bongabon, the lone fatality was Rhodin Badrizal who was electrocuted after stepping on a fallen power line on Monday night in La Trinidad town.

Typhoon-related fatalities were also reported in Baguio City, Kalinga and Cagayan.

Reports from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Cordillera said Andrew Bradian, a forest guard at the Basal area, was killed in Baguio City died after a tree fell on the guard house where he was staying on Monday.

A woman in Rizal, Kalinga, was also killed when a tarnished tree, blown by strong winds, crashed on her house.

The OCD in Cagayan Valley said the body of Gerato Llerena was swept away by rushing waters in the Cagayan River in Tuguegarao City also on Monday.

Reports from the Department of Social Welfare and Development said 181,792 people were taken to government evacuation centers in Cagayan, Isabela, Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Mt. Province and Kalinga.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council gave a smaller number. It said the number of evacuees almost tripled overnight to 8,529 persons as of Tuesday noon from 3,487 persons as of Monday afternoon.

The disaster council said 1,795 families consisting of 8,529 persons mostly from Cagayan, Isabela, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan were housed in 52 evacuation centers.

The council said 1.16 families or 562 persons went to evacuation centers in Manila.

PIECES OF THEIR LIFE Rosemarie Bonang, 29, stands to her 3-month old daughter Rachel as her husband Redeemer, 30, and son Raymart, 5, gather recyclable materials from what remains of their house in Barangay Manawing, Baguio, Isabela. EDDIE MESSINO

Drastic drop in casualties

Mayor Gregorio Medina Jr. of La Trinidad, Benguet, said the town was among the 4 area localities hard hit by the typhoon-related death in the town was a drastic drop from the 77 landslide deaths in Little Kibungan during last year's onslaught of Typhoon "Pepeng."

The evacuation of families will bring down the danger zone in Little Kibungan helped evacuate Sabdalan from the 77 landslide deaths in Little Kibungan during last year's onslaught of Typhoon "Pepeng."

"Surely [the fatality count] is low because people prepared before 10am most, and they have learned a lot," said Baguio Bishop Carlito Cenzon.

The OCD reported only six people lost in the Cordillera.

Run off many collected in the City Camp Lapoan in Baguio City reached 10 feet on Tuesday morning.

Apayao's Mayoan River overflowed, obstructing traffic in a section of the Apayao-Isabela Road. Km 668 and KM 672 of the Claveria-Calanasan Road are still closed due to landslides.

All roads leading to Kalinga have been closed due to landslides.

Kennon closed

The Mt. Province towns of Natonin, Paracelis and Sadanga have been isolated by landslides, said Edilberto Carrillo, Cordillera director of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Carrillo said road cuts closed Bitoonsiw 400 of the Mt. Province-Ilocos Sur Road; the Mt. Province-Cagayan Road traversing the Tabuk-Enrile Road; Kilometer 419 of the Manila-Bontoc-Banaue Road; and Kilometer 426 of the Manila-Bontoc-Banaue Road, both in the Sadanga section of Mt. Province.

Landslides also hit Kilometer 378 of the Halsema Highway (Gonogono section), leading to Banaue, Ifugao; the route to Ifugao bridging vegetable farms and the trading post at La Trinidad, Benguet.

Kennon Road, a major route to and from Baguio, has been closed for clearing operations due to rock slides.

Landslides run off the Bokod-Kabayan Road and the Benguet-Nueva Vizcaya Road in Benguet, and Kilometers 383 and 407 of the Bontoc-Mayoyao-Alfonso Lista Road and Kilometer 396 Aguinaldo Road, both in Ifugao.

Harvest season

Although the northern third of the country is regularly struck by typhoons, the timing of Juan's arrival has proved to coincided with the biggest of the year's four harvests, said Nieves Lizardo-Ilo, assistant director of the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics.

Isabela is part of Cagayan Valley, which accounted for 15.25 percent of last year's rice output and 24.28 percent of corn production, he said.

The agriculture department said Ilocos (Region 1), Cagayan Valley (Region 2) and Central Luzon (Region 3) were worst affected. Damage to corn was pegged at ₱396 million.

The department said 415 metric tons of vegetables were destroyed in Region 1. The typhoon destroyed ₱1.7 million in palay, fruits and vegetables in Abra, according to the OCD.

Salazar said 90 percent of the corn planted had been harvested. It was still too early to tell the palay situation, he said.

But as of 11 a.m. yesterday 70,000 metric tons of palay were damaged, much lower than the worst-case scenario of 600,000 MT, he said.

Based on the report of National Food Authority administrator chief Angelito Banayo, there is sufficient rice in the NFA warehouses to meet the country's needs in the next 30 days, Salazar said.

The despite the 804 metric tons of rice raised in the NFA warehouses in Region 2, the country's second largest rice-producing province, the agriculture department said.

Outages

Several areas in northern Luzon may have to endure four to seven days of outages due to the extensive damage to transmission lines.

"Damage was worse than expected. For one, 11 (of the 50) towers of the Cagayan-Tuguegarao 230 kilovolt (KV) were toppled," said Cynthia Alabastro, spokesperson of National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP), the country's transmission operator.

Alabastro said longer power outages in Cagayan, northern Isabela, Kalinga and Ipugao were due primarily to the extensive damage to the 60-km Gattor-Tuguegarao line, one of the most crucial lines in northern Luzon.

Among the NGCP-owned 69 KV transmission lines that were damaged were the Tuguegarao-Magapit-Iligan, Tuguegarao-Tabuk, La Trinidad-Bolinao, San Manuel-Mankayan, Bauang-Laguiben, Bauang-Rosario and the Bauang-Aguinaldo lines.

Also damaged were the Kadampan-Mankayan 230KV line Mauzel-Kadampan 69KV, Naga-San Manuel 230-KV Line 1, and the Santiago-Cauayan 230 KV.

Early evacuation

The Pangasinan disaster council said there would have been more casualties in the province had authorities not conducted forced evacuation of people, especially in the coastal areas.

On Tuesday morning, several high-rise buildings in Dagupan City had shattered glass windows and roofs and tree branches littered the roads.

Flooding was also reported in low-lying areas of Labrador and Mangaog towns.

Prices of 'bangus' drop

Bangus, the main fishery product of Pangasinan, flooded the public market there, so price dropping to ₱60 a kilogram, down from its regular price of ₱90 a kg.

Many bangus growers, especially in western Pangasinan towns, harvested their stocks early due to fears in the sea," said Emma Medina, a Dagupan eatery owner.

Julie Dove, the president of the Mulitupan-Alapan Dagupan Market Vendors Federation, said there was an oversupply of bangus because there were no buyers.

"Our buyers are usually from the Cagayan Valley and Metro Manila. But because of the bad weather, they could not come," Perez said.

Ilocos Norte spared

It was business as usual in Ilocos Norte as Juan weakened, bringing minimal rains and winds on Tuesday.

Gov. Imee Marcos said the province escaped any major damage after the storm changed course bringing minimal rain since Sunday night.

The Laoag City and Ilocos Norte disaster councils reported no typhoon-related casualty or damage to infrastructure, despite strong winds and rains around heavy rain dumped by Juan.

The towns of Burgos, Pagudpud, Adams and Dumalneg, which are serviced by the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, experienced power interruptions after the two facilities were shut down on Monday.

Renato Rabulan, the cooperative's manager, said several towns went without power on Monday night due to severe thunderstorm. But power was immediately restored after lines were not installed.

Central Luzon

In a 2 p.m. update on Tuesday, the OCD in Central Luzon said 6,048 people were affected by floods in 15 villages in Bataan, Dinalupan and Lubao in Pampanga, Malolos City in Bulacan, Cabiangan in Nueva Ecija, San Clemente and Bamban in Tarlac, and Macabebe in Pampanga.

At least 2,172 people were transferred to evacuation centers.

Preemptive evacuations were done in Barangay 59-A in San Clemente, Tarlac, as floodwaters rose to between three and four feet after a dike along the Sulucan River was damaged.

In Pampanga, the provincial disaster council on Tuesday ordered the forced evacuation of 54 families in San Juan Bulo in Arayat town to protect them from another landslide.

Pampanga Governor Lilia Pineda Jr. said the council decided to evacuate some 200 families living along the Cambasi and Capariz creeks of the Arayat-Apalit area.

Reports from Cordillera Bureau; Ruperto Finnigan Cardenas, Nicolito Satuda, Vincent Cabreza, Filamer Thayer Jr., Cristina Arzadon, Delmar Cariño, Maurice Malanes, Jaime Morales and Ben Moses Ellorac, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Fidelity Orcales, Nicolito Bagas, Armand Galang and Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon; Dona Pazzibugan and Jerome Aning in Manila, and AFP

A tongue-twister that spells disaster

From page A1

Risk Reduction and Management Council, or the NDRRMC—is proving to be a mouthful of a tongue-twister even for ranking government officials, at least for the head of the country's civil body.

The NDRRMC, or whatever its name is, is actually the former National Disaster Coordinating Council, or NDCC.

The NDCC failed quietly into the archives in May when then President and now Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in one of her last acts in Malacañang, signed Republic Act No. 10121 reorganizing and renaming the old council. See related story on this page.

A jaw-breaker

While discussing the possibility of postponing the barangay elections in some places up North, Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Jose Melo belatedly stumbled twice when he referred to the newly named council.

"We will be getting a briefing from the... from the... whatever the name is," Melo said in a media briefing, to the chuckles of those present.

"Now, we are waiting for the reports from the National Disaster Coordinating... oh, they changed the name... It's a jaw-breaker of a name... I don't know who devised that name," Melo said in jest.

Poll postponement

What the Comelec chair was actually trying to say was that the poll body had been monitoring the situation in northern Luzon after it was hit by Typhoon Yolanda.

Melo said the Comelec was expecting the postponement of the upcoming barangay elections in some areas badly hit by Juan.

He said some barangays in the hinterlands might have been hit by landslides or other disasters or that some common might have been destroyed by the supertyphoon or even now cramped with evacuees.

"More important or just as important is there must be power. If there is no power and the radio count lasts until evening, that would be dangerous in our hinterlands. They need to have power," Melo said.

He said the Comelec would be briefed on the situation by the NDRRMC today and the poll body would then decide if the elections should be postponed in some areas in northern Luzon.

Elections to push through

"If at all, there will not be so many places where elections will be postponement of elections. The elections, in general, will push through," he said.

Melo cautioned candidates against using the relief operations as a ploy to "buy" votes.

"Our usual prime issue when someone is trying to buy them (off). They have the intention of the one giving them some goods," he said. "Sir, let's behave."

Melo emphasized the Comelec was not banning candidates from giving away relief goods but only from buying votes.

Election Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer said vote-buying could be a ground for disqualification of candidates.

From NDCC to NDRRMC

EO 2012 '13. President Benigno Simeon Aquino signed Presidential Decree No. 1566 creating the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC).

Its job was to "advise the President on the duties of all government programs, disaster operations and rehabilitations of form undertaken by the government and private sectors."

The secretary of national defense was designated head of the council. Other members included the secretaries of public works, transportation and communications, social welfare and development, agriculture, education, finance, labor, justice, trade and industry; budget; environment, health, and natural resources.

The Armed Forces chief of staff and the executive secretary were also NDCC members.

Last May, then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Republic Act No. 10121 reorganizing the NDCC and renaming it the "National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council," or NDRRMC.

New functions

Apart from advising the President, one of the NDRRMC's primary functions is to develop a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework, which shall provide for a comprehensive, all-hazards, multi-sectoral, inter-agency and community-based approach to disaster risk reduction and management."

While still chaired by the defense secretary, the NDRRMC has four vice-chairs—the interior secretary, who sits as vice chairperson for disaster preparedness; the social welfare secretary, vice chairperson for disaster response; the science and technology secretary, vice chairperson for disaster prevention and mitigation; and the socioeconomic planning secretary, vice chairperson for disaster rehabilitation and recovery.

Under a 19-member NDCC, the new council has become a body of more than 60 members.

They include the department secretaries, the chief of the Philippine National Police, and the presidents of the Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines and League of Municipalities of the Philippines, among others.

Kim Pal-os, Inquirer Research

Sources: NDCC, RA 10121, PD 1566

Pagasa: Team RP proves world wrong

From page A1

recorded at least 32 people dead in northern and central Luzon. Benito Ramos, executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, said 10 were confirmed dead and six injured. (For story on Page A1.)

Pamoil said government preparedness and the people's cooperation helped minimize the losses from Supertyphoon "Juan," which made landfall in Isabela province on Monday.

"I think Typhoon Juan showed you Team Philippines," he said at a briefing in Malacañang.

Commendations

President Aquino commended Pagasa and the departments of science and technology, of national defense, of social welfare and development, and the national disaster council.

"I am very happy to report to the public that everyone has delivered. The thorough preparations of all concerned agencies are in marked contrast to the official helplessness of the past, and at present, we haven't had to ask the public to evacuate outside resources," the President said.

In a statement read by his spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, Mr. Aquino said Pagasa issued bulletins on the coming storm early and the rest of the bureaucracy informed the public of its plans as early as Friday, days before Juan hit land.

"To date, the needs of affected communities are being met. The damage and loss of life could have been much greater had we not prepared for the storm," Mr. Aquino said.

He said the actions of the government and the people showed what could be accomplished when "we all cooperate to address the needs of our people."

Pamoil said that as predicted by Pagasa forecasters, Juan packed hotbeds with winds of 225 kilometers per hour, gusts of 280 kph and rains in the 50-to-60 millimeter an hour range—similar to last year's Typhoon Ondoy.

"The good thing about this is you saw a tremendous typhoon entering the country but the loss of lives—considering this is the strongest in the world, was basically minimal," Pamoil said.

He was hopeful the minimal loss of lives is efforts not only by the national and local governments and civil society is respected to the storm but also by individuals and families on the ground.

"They really made the difference," he said.

Hourly updates

Pamoil said Pagasa's "every-hour-on-the-hour" monitoring of Juan helped Isabela from getting caught unprepared.

He said conventional weather agencies and even Pagasa's own models on Sunday all pointed to Juan making landfall in Cagayan.

"All the international centers and all the numerical models showed that [Juan] would hit northwest and hit Cagayan. But the every-hour-on-the-hour monitoring of Pagasa showed that it already drove that it was going southwest," Pamoil said.

"At 10 p.m. (on Sunday), Pagasa was the only agency that showed Juan is not going to Cagayan. It will actually hit Isabela," he added.

Courage of Pagasa

Pamoil lauded the courage of Pagasa personnel for following the indications of their hourly-watch instead of adopting the findings of the international agencies and the weather bureau's forecasting models.

"It took a lot of courage among the young people of Pagasa to actually make that kind of decision because the national government was really depending on these young people," he said.

"They said it would not hit Cagayan but Isabela. There, lo and behold, the young people were correct," he said.

Pamoil said Pagasa began to monitor Juan's path as early as Friday on Mr. Aquino's orders.

Disappointed

A few days into his administration, Mr. Aquino expressed his disappointment over Pagasa's forecast of the path of Typhoon "Basyang" that proved way off the mark.

Basyang was forecast to take a route to the north but actually hit Metro Manila.

The President, during a meeting of the disaster management council, told Pagasa officials that its performance was unacceptable. He ranked them weather bureau chief Dr. Prisco Nilo absorbs thrown last.

At Tuesday's Palace briefing, Pagasa Deputy Administrator Nathaniel Servando said the weather bureau continued to monitor Juan even if it was moving away from the country.

Most houses destroyed

Servando said the storm was expected to be out of the country either late night on early this morning.

But noting the damage wrought by the supertyphoon, Ilumoso said All persons of the houses in Sinifican, Ilumoso and Malacañan in Aurora province were wiped out, including a warehouse storing National Food Authority rice.

He said 2,000 of 8,000 sacks of rice stored there got wet and as a result were considered unfit for consumption. (For related story see Page A2.)

Ilumoso said the national disaster council was still assessing the extent of the damage caused by the typhoon.

Assurances

"The work of bringing life back to normal in the soonest possible time is already underway," Mr. Aquino said.

He assured the public that the power utilities were doing their job to bring back electricity to the affected areas.

"For areas where power supply was shut down as a precautionary measure, the authorities are now geared up to restore power as soon as they have been able to properly assess the damage and necessary repairs," Mr. Aquino said.

The President said the Department of Social Welfare and Development was attending to more than 6,000 evacuees. "They have been able to attend to the needs of affected communities because of the preparedness of supplies and equipment," he said.

The US government is set to release $100,000 in disaster relief assistance to the victims of the typhoon, the US Embassy in Manila said yesterday.

The President who called on government agencies to speak for area casualties in the wake of the supertyphoon expressed his condolences to those who have loved ones despite efforts to mitigate the storm's effects.

"Let me extend my deepest sympathies to the families of those who have lost loved ones in this supertyphoon," Mr. Aquino said. *With reports from Jerry E. Esplanada*

HOT BUTAMAN PARK Floods triggered by the supertyphoon's heavy rains submerge houses in Baguio City

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

P5-M reward put up for rebel-priest

By Carla Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

QUEZONILLAS waging what could be the world's longest-running insurgency celebrate the founding anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines in a camp in Mindanao. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BACOLOD CITY—The government has offered a P5-million reward for the capture of priest-turned-rebel Frank Fernandez, a ranking official of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) in Negros Island, the military said.

Lt. Col. Jesus Durias Fernandez, NPA regional spokesperson, on Monday said Fernandez, secretary of the CPP-NPA Kabalikat Mindanao Region, was facing rebellion and multiple counts of murder in court, with no bail recommended.

Under the leadership of Fernandez, Durias said, communist guerrillas in Negros murdered 93 people. Seventeen of the killings took place from January to October this year, according to the 303rd Infantry Brigade.

Col. Jesus Durias Jr., 303rd Brigade commander, also said Monday many of the killings were perpetrated by the Special Warfare Unit, a liquidation squad of the New People's Army.

Many of the victims were civilians and became rebels who gave up life in the hills, Durias said.

Fernandez's group also was behind attacks on Victorias Milling Co., mining firms and sugarcane planters who refused to pay revolutionary taxes, said Durias.

"This only proves that the NPA is actually the number one heinous rights violator in Negros Island," said Durias.

Bacnotan said the CPP has been committing deadly squads to strike terror into the hearts of people who refuse to cooperate with guerrillas.

The National Democratic Front, the umbrella group of communist leftist organizations, tried to crush the terrorists as revolutionary justice, he said.

In a statement, Fernandez said a guerrilla court in Negros had issued arrest warrants for several Army commanders in Central Visayas that the rebels tagged as responsible for extrajudicial killings.

Two soldiers of the 61st Infantry Battalion have been tagged as suspects in the killing of Bayan Muna member Benjamin Bayha in Himamaylan City. They are now facing murder charges in court.

Bacnotan said the Army was willing to cooperate with the court if soldiers were indeed involved in extrajudicial killings.

The P5-million reward offer for Fernandez's capture followed the turnover to an informant of P50,000 for the capture of Randal Echanis, who was tagged as a member of the central committee of the CPP.

Echanis, who also faces multiple murder charges in Leyte, was arrested last year in Bago City in Negros Occidental.

The NDF protested the arrest recently of what it said was its peace consultant, Eduardo Sarmiento, who is also a member of political prisoners—Dante Temario, Vicente Belga, Beatriz Ojeo and Anino Soledad.

In a statement, Fr. Santiago Salas, NDF Eastern Visayas spokesperson, said the release of the five would be taken as a gesture of goodwill on the part of the Aquino administration.

Sarmiento was arrested on Feb. 16 last year in Manila and is currently detained at the police headquarters in Camp Crame.

Reyla, Temario, Ojeo and Soledad were arrested separately after they were linked to the deaths of suspected rebels in NPA executions whose remains were found in a mass grave in Sagay, Leyte in 2006. With Joey Gallarza, Inquirer Visayas

Police locate kidnap victim but can't launch rescue

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Police in Sulu yesterday said they could only search from a distance and could not attempt to rescue a kidnap victim from the Abu Sayyaf.

Chief Insp. Usman Pingay, spokesperson of the Sulu police, said police knew where 21-year-old Chinese-Filipino Reno Clifford Lao is being kept.

He said, however, that police could not launch a rescue operation to free Lao from the group of Basaron Asnh, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf encamped in an area between Banaungan Tanum and Maligay in Patikul town.

But he said police continue to monitor negotiations between the Lao family and the Abu Sayyaf.

Dragnets have been set up and intelligence information continued to be gathered.

Senior Insp. Joseph Bacnar, Sulu police chief, said police decided not to "take action at this time."

"The Lao family requested us to allow them to negotiate and get the boy safely from the kidnappers," he said.

Bacnar said police decided to allow the family to negotiate to prevent a repeat of the fate of another Cabcbel Landowner.

"We don't want the boy to suffer the fate of Cantuneta," he said.

Cantuneta was beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf in November last year.

Board member Khalil Hatim, who was named spokesperson of the provincial crisis management committee, said the Abu Sayyaf was demanding P3 million for the freedom of the 21-year-old Lao.

He said the Abu Sayyaf has assured the Lao family that the victim was in good health.

The 21-year-old victim failed to come home from school on Oct. 7 after a supposed meeting with a text mate.

A few hours later, his family received a call, informing them that Lao had been kidnapped.

Pingay said the Lao family regularly gives updates to police on the status of the negotiations. Jaklyn S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Judge rules tearing up of fence at lake correct

BAGUIO CITY—A regional trial court judge in Ifik Province set free 72 residents of Benao town, who were ordered jailed in January 2009 for dismantling a fence around a community lake that has been claimed by a family from a neighboring town.

The municipal trial circuit court of Benao-Sagada found guilty of malicious mischief 72 of an Ionic Ifik people who rampaged up on April 3, 2004 to destroy the barbed wire fence surrounding a section of Lake Banao.

The fence was put up by the Abra-Bunacay family of neighboring Sagada town, who has claimed ownership over the lake section.

But Benao (Mt. Province) Judge Joseph Bagtilan reversed this judgment on Aug. 12, convinced that it was "the common good in the name of self-preservation and environmental preservation that bound the Benao people to act the way they did."

Bagtilan's decision was in response to an appeal initiated by the 72 Benao residents. The document was received by the Benao community only this week, said their lawyer, Floyd Lidawi.

Because of the difficulty of jailing a whole village, some of the convicted residents were situated while they appealed their case, according to a Benao resident.

Lidawi said the community spent months negotiating with the Sagada-based family, coming to the last that Lake Banao—or "Dam na Benao," supplies water to the villages of Benao-Abatan, Benao West and Sagada, as well as their rice fields and natural (water-pump) farms.

Village elders narrate the family, saying the lake has been unclaimed "as communal open space since time immemorial," he said.

But talks failed despite a series of mediation conferences called by village officials.

The elders tendered to take down the fence themselves, supported by village officials who believed that they were justified by the fact that the Abra-Bunacay family put up the fence without permission.

"The fence has cut the same spot where in the 1930s, people chased an American prospector who planned to open mining operations," Lidawi said.

He said it was in this same area in 1998 where many people occupied the construction of a quarry by a logging concessionaire.

"The call of the elders was to respect," Lidawi said. Ma. Isabel Cadiwan, Inquirer North-ern Luzon

MOSQUITO WAR
Despite admission against the use of fogging as a main weapon against dengue-carrying mosquitoes, some areas, like San Mateo, Rizal, continue to resort to fogging in the hope of reducing the number of dengue cases. JOEY GOSIENGFIAO

List of injured in Bataan provincial jail grows to 41

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The number of inmates injured in Saturday's clash with jail guards in Bataan has risen to 41, a list from the Integrated Jail of the Philippines showed.

The list put together the names of 13 inmates who the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology on Sunday confirmed to be hurt and the names of 28 others who BJMP members found injured during inspection on Monday, said Senior Chief Insp. Bill Bautista, chapter director.

"Some [inmates] showed wounds from rubber bullets," Bautista said.

The BJMP conducted the investigation at the request of the Bataan provincial jail board 7:00 a.m. on Monday.

Bautista on Sept. 18. The provincial jail held 700 men and 80 women prisoners.

Chief Insp. Roger Antonino, the jail warden, confirmed the use of rubber bullets by jail guards.

On Tuesday, two executive judges of four regional trial courts in the province granted a motion of the BJMP to allow medical workers to conduct tests on the inmates and provide treatment to the injured.

The Commission on Human Rights on Monday said an order to the jail based on interviews with inmates' leaders, Ernesto Ordoñez and Greg Rafhe-elieu. Inquirer Central Luzon

No foul odor in coal plant's 2nd test

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A second test on the 164-megawatt coal-fired power plant here gave mixed results on foul odor, prompting plant owners to say they were ready to operate the facility next month.

Engineer Achilles Mercado, assistant vice president of Global Business Power Corp. (GBPC), on Friday said GBPC, which owns the plant, would proceed with testing one of its two 82-MW turbines and stove while he said were pre-commissioning operations next month.

The second 82-MW turbine would be tested in December, said Mercado.

GBPC, said Mercado, was ready to supply additional power to the city upon approval by the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) of a power supply deal between Panay Energy Development Corp. (PEDC), a GBPC subsidiary, and Panay Electric Co. (PECO), the two power distributor in Iloilo City and the rest of Panay.

Demand for power in the city peaks at 75 MW but PECO could supply only 73 MW.

The coal-handling BOP approved would add 65 MW from the coal-fired plant also owned by a GBPC subsidiary, Panay Power Corp (PPC).

Iloilo City has been suffering from brownouts once to three daily since last year lasting up to three hours.

The 164-MW coal plant is doing its dry-supply inquiry in La Paz District.

Tests were stalled after residents complained of foul odor during the plant's first test run on Sept. 18-19.

Its second test run was held amidst close watch by experts, members of a monitoring team and barangay and city officials.

Iskwela Telafuera, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said samples of emissions taken during the second tests would be examined for possible pollutants.

An environmental group, however, described the second test run as a "farcical" (local play).

Joey Pesquira, convenor of the Barangay Jaro Residents in Climate Change (BRICC), said the test run was "rigged in order a permit to operate."

"This is another deception," said Pesquira, whose group continues to protest the construction of the coal plant.

Ms. Lea Victoria Lara, executive director of the Iloilo Business Club, said authorities should act swiftly on deciding whether the plant could operate or not as businesses in the city have been suffering heavily as a result of daily brownouts.

"We cannot afford further delays," she said.

She added that the losses brought by an unstable supply of power were huge.

THE CONTROVERSIAL 164-foot power plant being built and prepared for operations in Iloilo City. LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

A century of sowing seeds of faith, education in Ifugao

A BUST of the late Belgian priest Jerome Mosmans reminds people of Kiangan, Ifugao, of his role in introducing Catholicism to the upland province 100 years ago. — GEMMA C.

By Melvin Gascon
Kiangan, Ifugao

AT 81, Jose Guimpuman is one of the many living testaments to the life and work of the late Belgian Catholic priest, Jerome Mosmans, whose endeavament to the Ifugao people has transcended generations.

"He loved Ifugao so much; in return, he was very much loved and respected by our people," he said.

Guimpuman remembers one day after World War II when Mosmans asked him to cut the priest's hair, but wanting to disappoint the priest, he obliged. "Without I was done, I was nervous to have realized that I made such a terrible cut of his hair," he said.

Mosmans looked at his new haircut on a mirror, then said: "It looks like the Ifugao rice terraces. It's beautiful. I like it!"

"He was very much fond of the (Ifugao) terraces. He was very much like family to us, like a true father to all here," said Guimpuman, his face glowing while savoring the festivities in Kiangan town on Saturday.

Mosmans was at the spotlight of this year's centennial celebration of the Catholic mission in Kiangan, widely regarded as the official establishment of the Catholic faith in Ifugao.

On Oct. 15-17, the town's faithful reminisced the achievements of Mosmans and all other priests, and lay people of the Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae (CICM) or the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary's—a saga about love, companionship and dedication, which spanned 100 years.

Saturday was a special day. Residents in native costumes and visitors paraded around town, danced, sang and feasted in a grand celebration coinciding with Mosmans's 53rd death anniversary.

Community sharing

And in Ifugao, no celebration would be complete without the presence of a community sharing the "bendalo," a native rice cake wrapped in banana leaves.

"More than anything else, what we are doing ... is our way of giving thanks to Father Mosmans and the CICM for what they have done for the people of Kiangan and Ifugao. Everything that you see here today, we owe ... to them," Gov. Eugene Balitang said.

A tribute was given to Mosmans and about 60 CICM priests who, for their successful in sowing the seeds of faith and education to Catholics in Kiangan, served as the locals' spiritual guides, teachers, doctors, nurses and community leaders.

Roots

As a young priest, Mosmans set foot in the mountain community in 1910. Like some Cordillera tribes, the Ifugao people used to be known for their headhunting practices.

While other Catholic priests before him failed, Mosmans stood out on his convictions to help them. He overcame the adversities of strong local resistance, the threats of disease, language barrier and the raging World War II.

Often riding on horseback, he and other CICM missionaries traveled to the remote mountain villages to spread the faith. In one area, Mosmans befriended the people and convinced them to abandon their pagan practices and accept Christianity.

With meager funds coming from donations, materials from the lowlands and labor driven by the volunteers' passion to get closer to God, Mosmans built the first parochial church in Kiangan, then a concrete years later.

In 1913, Mosmans and the CICM then established the first elementary school, then a high school. From his years in country, he sent high school graduates to universities in Manila, Baguio and other cities.

True love

"He showed true love for the people, that even with a failing health, he never stopped working," lay leader Lydia de Castro said.

Kiangan would become Mosmans's home for the next 48 years of his priestly life, and beyond. He died on Oct. 15, 1958, in Manila, but was brought back home to Kiangan. His tomb lies at the basement of Sacred Hearts Church, which also houses the Father Jerome Museum.

So deep was the influence of the missionaries' work in Kiangan that through generations, their teachings, given from the pulpit and in the classrooms, have remained ingrained in the hearts and minds of the people.

Mosmans's relatives expressed deep appreciation to the Ifugao people for the selfless love they have given to him. As a token, Anne Marie Penne, a great grandniece, brought with her Mosmans's 100-year-old chalice, which he used during his first Mass in Kiangan a century ago, and donated it to the town's faithful.

"Father Jerome would have wanted the chalice, which was given to him as gift for his ordination in 1908, to be inherited by the next member of the family who would become a priest. Sadly we were did so," Penne said.

Since Mosmans's death, the chalice was kept by his sisters, who, in her will written in 1959, decreed that it be turned over to Kiangan.

"Take good care of it and we hope it will bring more blessings to the community," Penne said.

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Sketch of bar exams grenade-thrower out

Man's identity still a mystery

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) released yesterday an artist's sketch of the man who hurled a grenade at a group of revelers on the last day of the bar examinations on Sept. 26.

The blast in front of De La Salle University on Taft Avenue in Manila left more than 40 people wounded.

At a press conference, NBI Deputy Director for Special Investigation Services Rafecas Danog told reporters that the sketch was based on witnesses' description of the grenade-thrower.

Danog, however, said the witnesses did not see if the man had companions who helped him carry out the attack.

"This is the only person they saw at the time," he added.

At the same time, Danog said the NBI had yet to identify the man in the artist's sketch.

Based on the sketch and the description given by the witnesses, the grenade-thrower was around 20 to 25 years old, about 5'6" to 5'7" tall, of medium build and with light brown complexion.

NBI spokesperson Special Agent Cecilio Zamora said the bureau had yet to zero in on a specific motive for the grenade attack.

"We have yet to conclude the investigation. We do not want to rule out any angle because it might turn out to be the correct one," he explained.

NBI, church tell 2 MPD stations: Move out of lots

By Jeannette I. Andrade

TWO LOT owners—the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Sto. Asis Church—have asked the Manila Police District (MPD) to stop squatting on their property.

But MPD officer in charge, Chief Supt. Roberto Rosqueillo, said yesterday that he was not keen on giving in to the NBI's demand to vacate the 2,400-sq m lot on US Avenue on which MPD Station 5 is located.

"There is a Presidential decree which instructed us to maintain a property occupied by the PNP (Philippine National Police) if its owner, except when it is ... privately owned," he said.

ROSQUEILLO

Rosqueillo told the inquirer that he would refer the matter to the PNP legal department.

"We have to counter that. That lot is government-owned and we both work for the government," he said.

As for the 800-sq m lot to Sto. Asis — the home of the NBI Station 6—which is being claimed by the Sto. Asis Church, Rosqueillo said the MPD has no choice but to move out.

"We have to vacate that site because it is owned by the church and is considered private property," he told the inquirer.

He added that he would hold a dialogue with church officials on Oct. 23 regarding the lot on Pedro Hagar Street.

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Reexamine case vs me, ex-actor asks QC court

By Julie M. Aurelio

FORMER actor and Octoarch Members Provincial Board Member Patrick Dela Rosa has asked a judge to conduct a preliminary investigation of the rape charge filed against him by a 20-year-old college student.

In a motion filed with Judge Evelyn Calleothan of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 96, Dela Rosa, through his lawyer, Ramon Gonzales, said that due process was not observed when the inquest prosecutor recommended the filing of a case against him.

According to the former actor, he was arrested without a warrant even though he was not caught in the act of committing a crime.

He also questioned the inquest proceedings, claiming that he was not allowed to choose his legal counsel.

Dela Rosa said he was already here from counsel of his further investigation to give him a chance to answer the accuser's allegations.

A court staffer said the former actor's motion would be taken up by the court at 8:30 a.m. today.

On Monday, the judge issued an order for Dela Rosa's transfer from the Cubao police station to the Quezon City Jail pending his arraignment on the rape charge.

The order was served to the Cubao police station on the same day.

Dela Rosa has been detained at the police station since his arrest on Oct. 8 based on the complaint of a woman who claimed the actor had raped her in a condominium in Cubao, Quezon City.

In a statement she gave to police investigators, the victim said she and her friends, including Dela Rosa, had a few drinks and that she had fallen asleep afterward.

She added that later on, she woke up because she felt someone lying on top of her. She said that when she saw it was Dela Rosa, she pushed him away and slapped him several times as she started to help.

NBI, church to MPD: Move out

From page A-9

Hontiveros said the church wanted to take back the property which it had loaned for over 50 years to the MPD because it wanted to build a building.

MPD spokesperson Cecilia Zamora, meanwhile, said that the bureau needed the Old Arrastre property so that it could build a clearance processing center.

"It is better if the NBI has its own building for the processing center. The bureau has been eyeing the Mercury Hall premises for several years," he said.

Bongardin said the NBI, through a demand letter signed by Director Magtanggol Gatdula, had given them until the end of the year to move out of the contested lot.

METRO BRIEFS

Chinese man yields P6M worth of shabu

A 34-YEAR-OLD Chinese man is facing charges after P6-million worth of illegal drugs were recovered from him during a buy-bust operation in Manila last week, Assistant City Prosecutor Ma. Consuelo Ortiz of the Manila Prosecutor's Office has recommended Dai Sheng Bing Lan, a native of Fujian, China, be charged with violations of Republic Act No. 9165, Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. Chief Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director, said Lan was arrested by operatives of the NCRPO's Regional Police Intelligence Operation Unit in a buy-bust operation on Muphidapan Street in Sta. Cruz on Oct. 14. Recovered from him were 1.5 kilograms of shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride with an estimated street value of P6 million, two cell phones and the marked money used by the operatives. *Pearl B. Sarmiento*

200 families in high-risk areas evacuated

MORE than 200 families living in areas declared as high risk by Marikina City government were evacuated yesterday by their barangays. Mayor Bayani Fernando said he decided it was best to transfer the 66 families from Sitio Pinagsa and 150 families from Sitio Concepcion, both in Barangay San Jose which had been declared by the City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office as prone to landslides and landslides. "We are strong everything in order in the safety of (people) residents," Leyble said on a statement. The families were taken to Alicia High School or Barangay San Jose to the meantime. The mayor said the local disaster council has been monitoring the rains caused by Supertyphoon "Juan" which have not stopped since Monday night. Yesterday, Leyble ordered the suspension of classes in public and private elementary and secondary schools in the city. The city government of Marikina, on the other hand, said on its guard against flooding as the water level of the Marikina River rose above normal standards at noon yesterday. As the water reached 13 meters, just one meter shy of the critical level, Mayor Del de Guzman said around 4,000 families across to monitor the situation. *Mike Cadiz*

Man gets 8 years for stabbing friend dead

A MANILA court sentenced a man to a minimum of eight years in prison on Monday for stabbing dead his friend in a drunken scuffle in Tondo five years ago. Judge Thelma Bunyi-Medina of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 18 found Bernie C. Villanueva guilty of homicide and ordered him to pay P100,000 on civil and moral damages to the heirs of the victim, Mark L. Cabrera. In a 39-page decision, the court said the prosecution established that the accused had stabbed to death the victim when he stabbed him several times, and the number of stab wounds belied his claim that he did it in self-defense. But the court also said the evidence did not show that the elements of murder, the crime of which Villanueva had been charged with. It said the evidence did not show any sign of treachery or premeditation to qualify as murder. Court records showed that the incident occurred on Aug. 19, 2005, in a basketball court where Villanueva and the victim were having drinks. *JU Yap*

Man killed as electric post falls on him

DUE TO STRONG winds and heavy rains brought about by Supertyphoon "Juan," an electric lamp post on a major road in Quezon City collapsed and fell on a man riding a bicycle on Monday evening, a police report said. Supt. Anthony Yang, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit of the Quezon City Police District, said the freak accident took place at around 7:30 p.m. on N.S. Amoranto Street in Barangay Sauyo. Police Case officer PO2 Joselito Bagsic said Marcelo Alonzo, a security guard, sustained serious head injuries and died on the spot. *Aurea C. Calica*

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Sarkozy vows crackdown on violent protests

PARIS—French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Tuesday pledged to crack down on "revolutionaries" attending police during protests against a proposed higher retirement age.

Sarkozy said blockages of oil refineries causing gas shortages cannot recur in a democracy" where "those are people who want to work."

Sarkozy joined the warning as some refinery unions closed clear of France and police clashed with stone-throwing youths in a tense round of nationwide strikes and protests over a bill raising the retirement age to 62.

Workers in sectors across the French economy joined in one-day strikes on Tuesday after a week of disruptions by protesting oil refinery workers, students and employees of the national railway operator. More than 200 protests are planned around the country on Tuesday.

It was the ninth national day of demonstrations over the planned pension reform since early September. Union leaders have vowed to keep up the pressure until the government scraps the unpopular plan, saying retirement at 60 is a fundamental social right that past generations fought hard to achieve.

But President Sarkozy said the plan must go through to save France's generous but money-losing pension system. The pressure in France comes as countries across Europe are cutting spending and raising taxes to bring down record deficits and debts from the worst recession in 70 years.

The Paris airport authority warned on its website and in signs at the airports "Strike on Oct. 19. Serious difficulties expected in access to airports and air traffic."

France's civil aviation authority said up to half of flights on Tuesday and of Oct. 21 could be scrapped, and 30 percent of flights out of the French airports, including the country's largest, Charles de Gaulle, arriving there, would be canceled.

Strikes by oil refinery workers continued, sparking fuel shortages that forced at least 1,200 gas stations to be shortened. Other stations are large crowds. At an Esso station on the south east edge of Paris on Tuesday morning, the line snaked along a city block and some drivers waited with canisters in hopes gasoline in case of shortages.

Truckers have joined the protest, running so-called "escargot" operations in which they drive at a snail's pace on highways. On Tuesday, about 20 truckers blocked an oil depot in Narbonne west of Paris, spurred by oil giant Total, accusingly saying fellow truckers refusing to fill up with gasoline. Police stood by but did not intervene.

Students entered the fray last week, blockading high schools around the country and staging protests that have occasionally degenerated into clashes with police.

Across the country, 379 high schools were blocked or disrupted on Tuesday, to varying degrees—the highest figure so far in the student movement against the retirement reform. AP

A HIGH school student faces riot police even during a protest action in Paris.

WORLDBRIEFS

Chechen parliament attacked

GROZNY—Insurgents stormed the parliament complex in Russia's volatile Chechnya region on Tuesday, killing at least two police officers and one parliamentary official, and injuring 11 others, authorities said. At least three insurgents were also killed, ending one of the most brazen attacks on the province's capital in months. One lone gunman set off a bomb at the gates of the parliament complex in Grozny, killing himself and wounding others. At least two other gunmen ran into the building shouting "Allahu Akbar!" as they opened fire on the people inside. Vladimir Chernetsyn in the Russian North Caucasus has been battling an Islamist insurgency for years despite the iron rule of its Moscow-backed president, Ramzan Kadyrov. Russian Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev is in Grozny and holding talks with Kadyrov about the violence. AP

Japan issues travel alert

TOKYO—Japan on Tuesday issued a travel advisory for its citizens planning to visit China, urging them to be on special alert following months anti-Japanese rallies over a territorial spat. Nationalist passions have been inflamed in China, triggering emotional street protests in the first flash began when Japan arrested a Chinese trawler captain on Sept. 8 near disputed islands in the East China Sea. "We cannot rule out the possibility that similar demonstrations may occur anywhere in China," Japan's foreign ministry said in a statement. AFP

China's Nobel peace laureate

BEIJING—US Attorney General Eric Holder on Tuesday urged Beijing to release Nobel Peace laureate Liu Xiaobo, while fellow lawyers scheduled to meet with top law enforcement officials in China. US President Barack Obama called for Liu's release when the Nobel Peace Prize was announced. Liu, who is serving an 11-year prison term for subversion, was honored for campaigning for human rights and democratic reforms in China for more than two decades. The award infuriated Beijing, which accused the Nobel organizers of recognizing a criminal and censored news of the win. Chinese officials also placed the wife, Liu Xia, under house arrest after allowing a brief visit with her husband. AP

Pakistan tied to Mumbai siege

NEW DELHI—Pakistan's intelligence agency was deeply involved in planning the 2008 terror attack on Mumbai, posing as an ally as it faced reconnaissance missions to the Indian city, according to a report on the interrogations of a US citizen convicted in the attack. The attack, blamed on the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba group, killed 166 people, paralyzed India's business capital and frayed peace efforts between Pakistan and India. David Headley, who pleaded guilty in US federal court to laying the groundwork for the attack, told Indian interrogators in June that officers from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency were deeply intertwined with Lashkar-e-Taiba. AP

US, Israel hits Iran

WASHINGTON—The United States and Israel on Tuesday said Iran was among the "greatest challenges" to stability in the Middle East and reaffirmed their commitment to preventing the country from developing nuclear weapons. After talks in Washington, senior US and Israeli officials said in a joint statement that Iran's nuclear program, along with its support to anti-Israel militant groups, was of "great concern," and they pledged to keep Iran from acquiring atomic arms. AP

Ex-Congo veep on trial

THE HAGUE—An appeals panel at the International Criminal Court has rejected former Congolese Vice President Jean-Pierre Bemba's bid to have rape, murder and pillaging charges against him thrown out. Bemba has argued that allegations he commanded a militia responsible for atrocities in the Central African Republic in 2002-2003 were inadmissible at the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal because authorities in his country had decided not to prosecute him. AP

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The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Queco

41 dead in Vietnam floods; 19 missing

HANOI—Efforts to find a bus with 19 people swept away by high waters were hampered by raging currents on Tuesday in central Vietnam as the country's overall death toll from flooding and heavy rain reached 41, officials said.

Eighteen other people on the bus swam to safety or were rescued after clinging to trees and power poles. The bus was yanked off the main highway while traveling from the central highland province of Dak Nong to the northern province of Binh Dinh early Monday morning, said Huan Van Dan, a local police chief.

The bus bypassed a police roadblock directing traffic from the highway, which was covered by up to 60 centimeters of water. The driver survived and was being questioned by police, Dan said.

The military was using aerial detection to search for the bus, but its efforts have been unsuccessful.

"The river's current are very strong, making the search operations very difficult," Dan said by telephone from Ho Tinh province, where he is police chief of Ngi Xuan District.

Among the survivors were Luong Hue Thanh, 32, and his 2-year-old daughter. The father swam for two hours in the strong current, clinging to his child before he managed to swim to safety.

"We were sleeping when the storm worsened, raging passengers to catch whichever," Thanh was quoted by Thanh Nien newspaper as saying. "Held our daughter tight and got out of the bus in panic. I swam with one hand and another hand holding my daughter."

Elsewhere, in Nghe An, Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces, flooding has killed 40 people while two remained missing, disaster officials said. Another person was killed in Thua Thien Hue province from a whirlwind.

Up to 1.29 centimeters of rain pounded the central region over the past week, submerging 200,000 houses and forcing 140,000 people to flee, according to the national flood and storm control committee.

Central Vietnam also suffered other severe flooding earlier this month that killed 66 people.

Eleven rain was expected in some areas of the central region on Tuesday raising foodworries, though they were slowly receding in other areas.

Forecasters predicted that a supertyphoon, which skirted into the Philippines on Monday, would likely hit southern China and avoid Vietnam.

Meanwhile, state media reported on Tuesday that Vietnam would discuss with China the return of nine Vietnamese fishermen still stuck on the disputed Paracel Islands in the South China Sea since Typhoon "Megi" passed.

The fishermen had been detained by China but were later released. They were taken back to the islands on Saturday by a Chinese patrol boat that rescued them until stormy seas. The islands are near the path of Typhoon Megi. AFP

VILLAGERS navigate through floodwaters to bring relief goods to their homes in central Vietnam. AFP

UST Hospital acquired New Imaging Equipment for the Radiology Department

University of Santo Tomas Hospital (USTH) has acquired another important imaging equipments - the Philips dU Line, C-Arm System and Philips Practix 320 Mobile X-ray System is manufactured by Philips Netherlands and distributed by Equimedical Enterprises Inc.

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XI JINPING: Enigmatic figure

China's next leader a political mystery figure

BEIJING—Xi Jinping, the man who would be China's next leader, is a market-friendly but politically enigmatic figure whose weak power base may prevent him pushing a stamp on the nation for some time, analysts say.

China's vice president appeared to have his path to power in 2013 cleared on Monday when the all-powerful Chinese Communist Party named him to a military post seen as the final stepping stone to the post leader's chair.

Xi succeeds to the vice chair of the Central Military Commission—the country's top military body—will see off three years of scrutiny into what type of man Xi is politically, but so his observers have little to go on.

The son of a revolutionary hero, Xi, 57, is widely seen as friendly to market reforms his years as the top party boss in China's Zhejiang province, one of the economically dynamic eastern provinces of Zhejiang and Fujian.

"He is very market-friendly and it is highly likely that he would speak on behalf of the middle class and private owners and deal with state monopolies," said Cheng Li, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a US think tank.

But Xi's political views and leadership abilities remain "very unclear," Li said.

Three points are crucial, as Xi will be at the center of a generational shift in leadership expected to see President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao step down in 2013 after 10 years in power.

The Internet appears to be a rally for political reform—described recently by the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to jailed dissident Liu Xiaobo—and debates over the country's economic direction have animated.

"We are entering a very, very interesting period," Li said.

"Ultimately Xi's leadership skills will be very rigorously tested in terms of what how he will be able to deal with all these different forces."

Xi is known in China mainly as the slightly podgy, bedraggled figure pictured alongside the whizz-zoom aristocrat inside the party line—and as the husband of a well-known singer.

Xi is widely supposed to stay politically conservative, experts said.

They pointed out that he was anointed mainly because his revolutionary pedigree made him a compromise, choice acceptable to Hu, former President Jiang Zemin and other power brokers.

Xi also heads the central party school, one of the Communist Party's most conservative institutions.

"Judging by what we have seen from him, we should not expect him to do anything innovative or that will break with the current rigid system. He will most likely pursue the status quo," said Shi Weiguang, a noted dissident professor. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Pacquiao still half good in sparring, says Roach /A30

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy B. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

■ Lee breaks New Yorkers' hearts /A31

Ryan meets former squad

Derby Ace 5 tests Meralco

By Mauro B. Castillo

DEFENDING CHAMPION Derby Ace tries to get out of a rut when it faces Meralco tonight—when the Llamados play their former coach for the first time—even as Talk 'N Text shoots for the solo PBA Philippine Cup lead at the Cuneta Astrodome.

ARQUERO

Game time is 7:30 p.m. with coach Ryan Gregorio seeking to snap a two-game slide for his Bolts and keep his fourteen team mates one short the Tropang Texters try to claim a fourth straight victory in the Rain or Shine Elasto Painters at 9 p.m.

The Llamados have been playing without their three best big men because of injuries, struggling big since with opposing teams' defenses focusing on hunting reigning MVP Jayson Castro.

Meralco will again have the advantage in the big man department with Asi Taulava there, but of all the teams that played Derby Ace this far, it could be safe to say that the Bolts are their best chance to snap one of their slide.

Sophomore forward Marc Mirabelle has been left to man the slot for the Llamados, who win this tournament with a four-game sweep of Alaska last season, with Gary Allado and Dennard Ashford there as back-ups.

Aside from Taulava, Mac Cardona will be there to carry the offensive load for the Bolts, who opened the tournament with a 77-72 victory over Barangay Ginebra before losing their next two games to seasoned squads.

Sigi has been hinting a hard time this conference, not just because of a knee strain he has been nursing to protect an injured groin.

Held to just eight points in a 69-77 loss to the Elasto Painters, the Derby Ace guardsperson has had to face defenses that don't need to deal with abuses teammates Kelly Raymundo, Mars Pingris and Ruffy Rosario.

Talk 'N Text, meanwhile, will be coming off a midway offense coach Chot Reyes said he "has plans" "stupid basketball."

"I will certainly get in the face of my players," Reyes had said Wednesday last week after almost squandering a 24-point first half lead to rule, 102-84, over Meralco. "We cannot survive playing [second] halves like this one."

Manny 'still half good' in sparring

By Roy Luarca

BAGUIO CITY—Despite the disruptions in training, Freddie Roach is sticking to his prediction that Manny Pacquiao will stop Antonio Margarito when they clash for the vacant World Boxing Council super welterweight crown on Nov. 14 in Arlington, Texas.

And for his prophesy to come true, Roach intends to intensify Pacquiao's training in the next two weeks.

"It would be a big week for sparring," Roach told Manila-based sportswriters the other day. "The week and next week, it would be the toughest two weeks coming up."

The trainer insisted he hasn't seen Pacquiao's old speed in sparring.

"He's already 100 percent with the mitts, but only 60 percent in sparring," Roach said yesterday.

His plan, according to the four-time Trainer of the Year is for Pacquiao to go down to Manila after today's training and to spar on Thursday.

A workout has been scheduled for Friday before Pacquiao spars again on Saturday afternoon. The team leaves that night for Los Angeles.

While Roach expressed satisfaction with Pacquiao's sparring partners, Glen Tapia and Michael Medina, the losing Hall of Famer said more sparmates with the same fighting style as Margarito will be available once they settle down at his Wild Card Gym in Hollywood.

Roach said making in the setup are Peter "Kid Chocolate" Quillin, the 6-foot-1 Steve Forker who is unbeaten in 20 fights (15 by knockouts), and Simon Marcinyszyn (20-1 with 17 KOs).

"We need a little more focus, but I think, overall, we're doing okay," said Roach.

THE PHONE keeps ringing for Pacquiao.

TRAINER Roach takes a break.

Four weeks into training camp, Pacquiao has sparred for 36 rounds, and Roach has scheduled some 60 rounds more in the next fortnight before tapering off.

Though they started a bit late, compared to Pacquiao's preparations against Miguel Cotto and Joshua Clottey, Roach believes his pound mate has been consistent.

"We have good and bad days, but more good than bad lately, so it's getting better and better," said Roach, citing Pacquiao's solid workout before the media at Blue Up gym here the other day.

Aware of reports that Margarito is training and sparring like an animal in Oxnard, California, Roach said he expects the fighter-enhancement "Tijuana Tornado" to spar for about 150 rounds.

Roach has lowered Pacquiao's target to between 100 and 110 KO sparring rounds since the seven-time, seven-division world champion "already knows what to do."

Pacquiao's training, occasionally disrupted by the harangues representation's commencement and by a bout with colds, hit another snag yesterday after money comes brought by Top Rank team made it impossible for him to do roadwork. He slept up to 10 a.m., then ate breakfast, according to Filipino trainer Nonoy Elen.

Well-rested, Pacquiao eased with energy as he went through 3.5 rounds of sparring with Ayat Khay, Tapia and Medina.

Khan lauds RP boxers

WBA LIGHT welterweight champion Amir Khan praised the Filipino amateur boxers' recent gold, two-silver performance in the Tammer Cup that ended on Tuesday in Finland.

"That performance is fulfilled because the Tammer Cup is a big amateur tournament and [the Filipinos' performances] shows how much boxing is developing in the Philippines, especially winning the amateurs," Khan, a former amateur who won the silver medal for Britain in the 2004 Athens Olympics, told the boxers.

"It's a good tournament and to win a gold, world there, it's a great achievement," he added.

The 167 squad also got a bonus when 19-year-old Victorio Saludar was named "Best Boxer" in the tournament. Victorio's older brother Jhon won the other gold.

Victorio managed his slim in the tournament by beating England's Charlie Edwards in the finals, 7-3.

Ronnie Nathaniel

Ikeda & Co. opens World Am bid

THE [illegible] hopes to renew our strong despite drawing a late morning tee-off at the first two rounds of the Experts' Guild Trophy tomorrow at the Orion Golf Club and Batangas Area Golf Club (A-B) Pagadian.

Chitose Ikeda, Dottie Ardina and Rita Pizzo set out in the 13-82 as in. Right at the Orion layout, raring to drag Lisa Hall with Ardina Sandi Alcaraz and Lalaine Manalac fifth others representing in the ladies World Amateur Golf Championships.

The Philippines placed 38th in the last stopping of the biennial event in Australia, ahead of tournament hosts Thailand (23rd) and Malaysia (37th).

US Open: Bata, Django lead Pinoy surge

POOL LEGENDS Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante joined Ronnie Alcano in a sterling start Sunday at the 30th Accmed US Open 9-Ball Championships in Chesapeake, Virginia.

But former world and US Open champion also "the Lion" Pagulayan failed to roar and lost to the unbeatable Lucky Rivera, 9-11, and was doomed to the losers' zone (one loss) bracket.

Reyes overcame Ron Judge, 11-7, for his second win while 2010 9-Ball Champion Bustamante ripped Eddie Gitlik, 11-1.

Reyes and Bustamante currently occupy the top two spots on the AC Billiards money leaderboard with Reyes' winnings amounting to $6,000, and Bustamante's $3%, 150.

United States based Filipino veterans Jose "Pitoteng" Parica scored back-to-back victories over Jason Johnson, 11-4, and Dave Bellman, 11-6, to set up a showdown with 2007 World Pool Champion Darryl Peach of England.

Lucky 2006 World 9-Ball champion Mexico sent humbly over Jason Nobles, 11-7, while Leo Van Cortezia whipped Alexander Fitzgerald, 11-5, and Amy Chen, 11-3, to set up a match-winning duel with former world champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany.

Wu-wu Warner beat Richard Burke, 11-3, and Chris Harmony, 11-7, while Daniel Gallego stomped Rick Robert, 11-5.

Pagulayan was joined in the losers' bracket by fanned Dennis Orcollo, who bowed to Johnny Archer, 9-11; Jeandel Manos, who lost to Dal Strickland, 9-11, and 2007 World 9-Ball runner-up Rolando Gomez who fell at the hands of Chris Hinz, 9-11.

Ronnie Nathaniel

Patrombon rallies past Japanese ace

FILIPINO ACE Jesse Patrombon overcame a shaky start to regular hometown favorite Yosuke Morimoto, 21-6, 6-1, 6-4, Thursday, in the opening round of the Osaka Mayor's Cup World Junior Amateur Tennis Championships in Japan.

Patrombon, seeded fourth in the top-flight 15 tournament, maintained his fighting form in the first set to best Morimoto in the three-and-a-half hour match.

"Despite the overwhelming support Morimoto got from the crowd, Jesse was able to fight back and take the match," Manny Tiwana, Patrombon's coach, said.

Patrombon, who is gunning back to back ITF titles after nailing a Junior 1-level event in Xiamen, China, last month, overcame a break point to hold serve in the crucial fifth game of the third set.

Another championship for the world No. 30 ranked Filipino will install him in the world's top 20.

Patrombon next faces the winner between India's Sidchay Thakker and Cosmetics Claim of Germany.

Jonn Serrano

Cagebelles out to prove worth in Seaba caging

[illegible] BID to see action the basketball in Guangzhou next month, granted, the national women's team is relishing the opportunity to prove its worth in the 7th Southeast Asian Basketball Association Championships (Seaba) from Oct. 24 to 29 at the Mitoy Aquino Stadium in Manila.

Team officials who appeared at yesterday's PSA Forum at Shakey's 101 Avenue in Manila, expressed confidence that the national squad, nicknamed Cagebelles by Filipinas, can nail a first title for the country in the biennial event.

The team's performance in the tournament was supposed to be the basis for its inclusion in the Asian Games squad, but with the latter's three officials completed, Philippine Olympic Committee turned to strike them off the roster.

"I don't have any doubts that we will win the gold," declared team manager Cynthia Tiu.

Coach Haydee Ong is confident that her team, despite its lack of height, will put up a strong showing in the meet.

Cedelf P. Pagsa

SPORTSWATCH

Catanduanes adventure race fires off Saturday

MI ISLAND adventure race featuring biking, canoeing and foot-running stages fires off this Saturday in Virac, Catanduanes, as part of the province's celebration of the 18th Cadandungan Festival.

The race, dubbed Mai Gamit, will feature major tourist attractions in the province like the Magnetic Surfing Site in Puraran beach, Bunga, the historic San Diego Church, the Balit Forest and then passing Cape in San Andres.

The 102 km-ground start and end at the Provincial Capitol in Virac.

Catanduanes Gov. Joseph Cua said this event aims to showcase the province as a sports and adventure tourism hub.

ISBB fives shoot for SBP, Passerello crowns

LUCENA CITY's International School of Better Beginnings sent two teams into the Lucena Regional Finals of the 2012 Cluster 5 Small Basketball Philippines Passerello championships essentially at the University of the Immaculate Conception San Fernando City, Pampanga.

ISBB stormed Divine Word Academy of Dagupan, 14-10, before beating University of the Cordilleras (Baguio), 40-30, to emerge a finals streamliner with Don Bosco, which topped the only triumph against University of the Cordillera, 40-40, by the SBP crown.

In the Passerello class, ISBB trashed Don Bosco, 15-10, to forge a finals clash with Divine Word Academy in this event sponsored by Mio.

Pasay RCD stagfest draws 40 entries

SOME 40 gymnastical breakers from Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Rizal and Quezon have signed up for the 2012 4-Stop Derby on Friday at Pasay City Cockpit.

To be hosted by Batangas sportsman R. Rosero, the annual event requires an entry fee of P11,000. Last year's edition lured 43 entries.

Entry will be accepted tomorrow at the PCC office. For inquiries, call 8831888, 8831345 or 0917-8031987.

Meanwhile, the Pasay venue will also host the national eliminations of the WPGR Battalion National 10-Stag Derby on Oct. 28 and 29, Nov. 3 and 4.

Race 1 ... Race 2 ... Race 3 ... Race 4 ... Race 5 ... Race 6 ... Race 7 ... Race 8 ... Race 9 ... Race 10 ... Race 11 ...
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Lee fuels Rangers' rout of Yankees

TIME TRAINER: Lee pitches against the Yankees in the first inning of Game 1 of the American League Championship Series on Tuesday night in Arlington, Texas. AFP

Texas seizes 2-1 AL Finals lead

NEW YORK—Left-hander Cliff Lee threw another postseason masterpiece on Monday as the Texas Rangers beat the New York Yankees 6-1 to seize a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven American League Championship Series.

Lee, who dumped goods and hit the corners to confound the Yankees, allowed seven hits and struck out 11 over eight innings as he won for the third time this postseason and improved his career playoffs record to 7-4.

Rangers slugger Josh Hamilton gave Lee all the support he needed by smashing a two-run homer in the first off starter Andy Pettitte, winner of a record 19 postseason games. Texas added six runs in the ninth off three Yankee relievers.

"Cliff was great tonight to say the least," said Beltre, who held the Rangers to two runs and five hits over seven innings. "He was outstanding."

Lee, 32, retired the first 11 Yankees before issuing a walk to Mark Teixeira, who received an ovation from a Yankee Stadium crowd of 50,088 starved for good news.

Jorge Posada's single to right with two outs in the fifth inning was the first hit off Lee. Brett Gardner's lead-off single in the ninth was New York's only other hit in a dominating performance by the Rangers' left-hander.

Thoroughbred

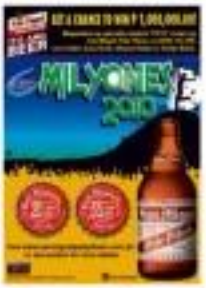
"The guy can pitch," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "He can move the ball around, change speeds and hit spots. To do what he did to that lineup, you definitely have to tip your hat to Cliff Lee."

Lee struck out every Yankee hitter at least once other than Robinson Cano, and only four balls left the infield. He also became the first pitcher to register 10 or more strikeouts in three successive starts in a single post-season.

"That was a complete performance to single that lineup.

"That's a powerful lineup. Tonight Cliff Lee was the best weapon we needed," said Washington.

Game 4 of the series to determine the American League team in the World Series will be played Tuesday in New York. Reuters



Baguio five gains PCCL zonal berth

By Cedrik P. Tupas

UNIVERSITY OF Baguio delivered Lyceum of Subic Bay with a narrow 95-92 victory Saturday to claim the North Central Luzon regional championship of the Champions League in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur.

Both teams actually finished the tournament with identical 2-1 records but the Baguio-based cagers captured the crown by virtue of the winners over the other side.

The UB Cardinals, who ruled the Baguio-Benguet Educational Athletic League, advanced to the Luzon-Metro Manila zonal phase of the PCCL, where four slots to the Sweet 16 are at stake.

The Cardinals competed in the Men Aces 12 Luzon-MM zonals set (NAIA) National U and University of the East, NCAA's Letran and Arellano, Maasin champion University of Manila, Imus champion Lyceum, FCAA titlist Colegio de San Monica, IL-third winner CCM and the champs saved the NCAA, CCLUZAR and MMCAA.

The cardinals reigned in the Men Aces 12 Luzon-MM zonals set (NAIA) National U and University of the East, NCAA's Letran and Arellano, Maasin champion University of Manila, Imus champion Lyceum, FCAA titlist Colegio de San Monica, IL-third winner CCM and the champs saved the NCAA, CCLUZAR and MMCAA.

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NCR lass leads Milo winners

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—It was their time to shine and the young athletes grabbed the opportunity coming up with memorable performances during the 2010 Milo Little Olympics National Finals over the weekend here.

National Capital Region's dazzling cuties completed a perfect performance in the pool at the Don Gregorio Mara Sports Complex, topping her five individual events and helping the Big City tankers win four more in relays.

The San Beda Alabang high school senior topped the 200-meter freestyle and 100-m butterfly on the final day after clocking titles earlier in the 100-m, 400-m freestyle and 200-m butterfly.

"It was a great weekend. It's always fun to see action in these events because you get to compete and meet new friends," said Ures, who emerged as swimming's Most Outstanding Athlete and is hatched to land a spot in one of the teams in the top collegiate leagues.

Ures and the other Most Outstanding athletes in the three-day event will receive P15,000 in educational fund and a year's supply of Milo products.

Among the top performers were sprinter Michelle Palmares and middle distance runner Vanessa del Valle. Mindanao's Arwin Dhaus won the century dash while NCRs Justin Rivera took the 200-m and 400-m gold

HANDSHAKE: Dela (right), the best swimmer in the Milo Little Olympics National Finals, shares center stage with (from left) Lester Castillo and Darwin Pasion of Milo and Mizanie Orbeta of Gen. Oscar Moreno.

A project of PANA Philippines' Cup co-presented by PANA Philippine Daily Inquirer The Philippine Star

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IN THIS ISSUE
- **Biz Buzz: Wishful thinking** /B2
- **World Bank raises growth forecast for RP** /B5

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Shell readies suit vs 'corrupt' Customs execs

Claims gov't misled into filing P24.5-B tax evasion case

By Amy R. Remo

TAKING A combative stance this time, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. yesterday said it would file a case against "corrupt and incompetent" Customs officials who misled the Aquino administration into filing a new P24.5-billion tax evasion case against the oil company.

Pilipinas Shell said in a notice yesterday that it would be "filing cases for gross negligence, gross incompetence and dishonesties against those who [had] misled this government." It did not cite who among the officials it planned to sue.

In a phone interview, Shell vice president for corporate communications Roberto S. Kausapi said they have yet to determine who among the officials they would bring to court.

"It will have to be the same guys. We still have to look at the complaints. I don't think we have received the official copy [of the filing]. Once we have it—

Shell's, B4

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Oct. 19, 2010

43.400

OCTOBER

STOCK MARKET

Oct. 19, 2010

24.03

(Stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks continue to retreat

LOCAL SHARE prices continued to decline as investors took profits and the market appeared headed for a consolidation.

The main Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) slipped 0.57 percent or 24.03 points to close at 4,181.35. The broader all-share index also lost 0.66 percent or 17.70 points to 2,664.66.

Sub-indices were divided with three in the red and the rest gaining. The financial sector led gainers, inching up 0.6 percent or 4.69 points to 804.11. Mining and oil lost losers with a 0.79 percent or 430.69-point decline to 53,132.77.

Decliners led advancers, 80 to 44, while 64 issues did not move.

"Stocks lagged in a similar fashion as last week as it entered a consolidation phase," said local brokerage firm AB Capital Strikes.

"The market in general is still on a rising period since valuations have turned high after the rally," the firm said.

"We may see more of this in the coming days as technical indicators still point to a flat direction but with a negative bias," the firm said.

Shares of Jollibee Food Corp. fell 0.88 percent on the back of news that it would be spending P5 billion to buy a 70 percent stake in competitor Mang Inasal Philippines Inc.

"The deal gives [Mang Inasal's P/E (price-to-earnings ratio) of 16 times, at-par with the market's P/E," the firm said.

Paolo G. Montecillo

Investors remain bullish on RP economy

By Paolo G. Montecillo

OPTIMISM OVER the Philippines' growth prospects remained at record levels and well above regional standards amid stable inflation and the country's sound economic fundamentals.

Investors also gave their vote of confidence to the new administration, with two out of three saying that President Aquino's performance would bode well for the local economy.

The latest ING Quarterly Investor Confidence Survey showed the Philippines maintaining its record-high score of 107 points in the third quarter of the year.

"The Philippines maintains its position as the region's star for the fifth consecutive quarter, suggesting that investors are confident in the market despite continued signs of a downturn in the US economy," it said. "The index for the Philippines once again ranks considerably higher than the overall pan-Asia (ex-Japan) rating, which increased 7 points to 116 points for the third

INVESTORS, B3

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Shell readies suit vs 'corrupt' Customs execs

From page B1

...ordered the copy not to be sent, couldn't refer to charges," Ganapervilasa...

Ganapi, however, neither confirmed nor denied...

...said whether Shell would submit Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez to its counter-charges. He only said that Alvarez was still new on the job and that "he should have been probed at because it seems that not all the necessary information has been passed on to him."

Last week, the Bureau of Customs filed with the justice department a P243-billion suit against Pilipinas Shell for allegedly evading import duties and taxes. In particular, the customs bureau accused Pilipinas Shell of "grossly undervaluing [its] duties and taxes [on the] importation of crude petroleum imports from 2004 to 2009 to avoid the payment of excise duties and value-added taxes (VAT).

According to Customs, Pilipinas Shell allegedly "misclassified" import shipments of crude, crushed petroleum (CDO) as lighter, unrefined gasoline (LGO) to evade payment.

The oil company said it suspected that Alvarez might have been misled by government officials who were claiming that Pilipinas Shell misdeclared its CDO and LGO importations to evade payment of taxes.

The company stressed that it has fund all appropriate taxes and duties on all its imports.

"Shell has always acted according to its business principles and has built and protected its reputation for many years," it said.

The company again explained that the alleged misdeclarations might have stemmed from the fact that since there was no distinction rate for CDO or LGO under the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, Shell had used a comparable gasoline tariff heading.

Although this was the case, the tariff description still clearly stated that the product was CDO or LGO. Pilipinas Shell also noted that Customs had then reviewed and assessed the proper tariffs and taxes to be paid by the companies, based on the product declarations of CDO and LGO.

"Therefore, Shell accordingly paid the tariff duly assessed by Customs and as such there was never any revenue loss to the government since it is also levied on the higher duty of 3 percent or the relevant tariff rate for CDO and LGO based on the applicable customs value," it added.

The oil giant maintained that since CDO and LGO were considered as raw materials, these were subject to zero taxes as ...ensured by a previous ...director from the Bu... ...ue, of Internal Revenue.

"CDO and LGO are not subject to excise taxes since they are not finished products but are classified as raw materials used by Shell's refinery to produce Diesel, Air Jet, completed petroleum products. Hence, contrary to previous assertions, from 2004 until December 2009, the BIR did not assess excise taxes on these imported raw materials upon importation but collected the excise taxes from Shell upon the submission of the finished products from Shell's refinery," Shell explained.

Wishful thinking

Biz Buzz

By the staff

JUST LIKE the past administration, you record is doing. The current administration may be claiming credit. For some people, the bank reports that are truly beyond its ambit.

A cursory glance at the yields of Philippine government-issued bonds will show that they are now priced at almost the same levels as those of bonds issued by its neighbors.

This is despite the fact that the Philippines' credit rating with Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch still stands three notches below investment grade.

This prompted talk from economic managers to predict that the country will soon get a rating upgrade from the so-called Big Three international debt watchers ... and leaving many bankers shaking their heads.

According to the bankers, the low borrowing rates that the Philippines is enjoying has absolutely nothing to do with the country's fundamentals but is, in fact, simply due to the overwhelming amount of liquidity sloshing around in emerging markets (thanks to ultra-low rates in the United States.)

Proof of this, the bankers pointed out, is the fact that foreign fund managers still lend money to even the poorest of the poor countries in the developing world, despite their relatively weak performance of the Greek worms.

"Just like in any party the free drinks will end at one point," one banker warned. Dixon L. Limon

DOF versus the bankers

SPEAKING of the fiscal scene, the Department of Finance is currently gave the Department of Finance the long-awaited nod to go to Senior Investment Grade. Finance Secretary Jesse Robredo proposed to make bankers liable for lending to borrowers who submit fudged financial statements.

The measure is meant to answer tax-dodging flaunts of accounts to funds. The tension is growing between the influential banking community and the de facto head of President Aquino's economic team.

Banks are quietly complaining that they are not qualified to assess whether borrowers' financial statements are authentic or not ("It's the job of auditors and regulators") and that the players in ambus...and an unnecessary burden on them.

Nonetheless, banks can't complain too hardly despite the measure's adverse impact on their bottom lines! Business Secretary Purisima's senior...more places them in an ambivalent situation.

"If the banks complain too loudly, they'll be accused of having added and abetted tax evasion all this time," said one banker. Imagine with the debate.

The issue is expected to come to a head soon between the Department of Finance and the Bankers Association of the Philippines (which has to be kept secret in the least.) Dixon L. Limon

Mang Inasal

BILLIONS. P3-billion buyout of a 70-percent stake in Mang Inasal was, according to industry sources, more of a defensive move than an investment in a growing firm.

This is because Mang Inasal has been operating into the market of Jollibee's flagship Chicken Joy product line.

The acquisition gave rivals Mang Inasal's 380 branches in the country's 24 the cost was financed) at nearly P18 million each.

"Think of it as spending P3-billion to head off a potential challenger down the line," one observer noted. "That's money well-spent." Dixon L. Limon

Lucky 9!

IT'S ALL unicorn go for the initial public offering of budget carrier Cebu Pacific on Tuesday, Oct. 26.

Precisely, all links have been ironed out, save one: The listing was originally scheduled a day earlier, Oct. 25, but had to be adjusted after the day was declared a holiday to make way by the nationwide barangay elections.

Market watchers pointed out that the choice of the original Oct. 25 date was dictated by "feng shui" principles since adding the digits of the date 10-25-10 (10+25+10) results in the lucky number 9.

With the new listing date's digits now reading 9, some superstitious investors (who had already subscribed to the issue) are now chewing their nails.

The underlying of the IPO is going for it, however, in the fact that it will be the first company to list on the bourse during the administration of President Aquino. That, count us among informed market players to help ensure that no red lines here. Dixon L. Limon

Investors remain bullish ...

From page B1

quarter of 2010 from 12% the previous quarter."

Investor confidence in the Philippines increased substantially by 75 percent since falling to the financial crisis low of 16 in the last quarter of last year.

"Local and foreign investors alike have unfinished this optimism by pumping more money into Philippine stocks," said ING Investment Management Philippines head and chief investment officer JJ Garcia.

Amongst daily investors in the local stock market in September alone, foreigners were the buyers in contrast to the P3.01 billion in average daily net turnover from January to August, ING noted.

The survey also showed that most investors believed that the Philippines was starting to "decouple" from the US economy.

"The Philippines, along with many emerging market economies, is increasingly becoming more resilient to external shocks/upsets. Record-high OFW remittances and the strengthening of the peso against the US dollar have made a strong case for consumption-driven growth," Garcia said.

Meanwhile, the ING survey showed that a sizable 69 percent of investors responded positively when asked about the impact of the current performance of the new administration so far. In contrast, whereas only 10 percent were negative.

"Investor indicators mapped for President Aquino's campaign platform at 71 percent believe that he should focus on stimulating jobs and corruption," it said.

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HSBC sees peso gaining to 41 to $1

Easing of Bangko Sentral rules to have little impact

By Michelle V. Ramos

HONG KONG and Shanghai Banking Corp. sees the peso rising further to 41 against the dollar by the end of the year, saying inflows of foreign capital are expected to remain robust in the remaining months of 2010.

Jose Antolin Veloso, head of treasury for the Philippines at HSBC, told reporters yesterday that the bank's economic research unit estimated the local currency to appreciate to least 2 pesos before the end of the year to 43:41.

The foreign exchange assumption of HSBC takes into account the surge in foreign capital inflows so far this year. The step-rise in inflows of dollars and other foreign currencies comes on the back of a bullish outlook on the Philippine economy, which some economists said could generate an even faster than the government's official target of between 5 and 6 percent.

HSBC does not see the rise of the peso being countered by a plan by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to liberalize the regulatory environment for outflows of foreign capital.

Veloso said that even if the BSP imposed rules that would encourage outflows of foreign capital, the peso was expected to remain strong. He said there was no significant number of investors who would take their money out of the country.

"Although the BSP can open the door to encourage outflows, not much [capital] is expected to go out of the country as everybody wants to stay," Veloso said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier reported that "hot money" inflows amounted to $1.413 billion in the first nine months of the year, more than six times higher than the $229.13 million registered in the same period a year ago.

The increase in foreign portfolio investments, mostly in the form of placements in the country's stock market, is consistent with the rise in foreign capital inflows to other emerging economies in Asia.

Market analysts said the inflows going to Asia was partly due to the favorable economic growth projection for the region and to the lackluster growth of industrialized countries led by the United States.

Gov't asset sale seen raising P2B

By Reena F.W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT has raised between P500 million and P600 million from the privatization of small-ticket assets, according to Finance Undersecretary John Philip Sevilla.

Even then, with one and a half months to go, Sevilla said the Department of Finance was confident it would raise P2 billion from the privatization of small-ticket assets as planned.

"We expect to meet the P2 billion that we are targeting to raise this year," he said. While the proportion up on the block represented "small transactions, we are confident we could sell the other items before the end of the year."

Earlier this year, Malacañang decided to defer the privatization of three big-ticket assets – including a big chunk of the Food Terminal Inc. property in Taguig City and the government's share in the Malampaya natural gas project as well as the lease of a prime property in Tokyo.

These three properties were expected to raise some P30 billion, which could help keep down the budget deficit.

Sevilla said the government expected to put the FTI land back on the auction block in 2011, adding that the 120-hectare property might account for the bulk of anticipated privatization revenues next year.

He said that while the latest appraisal placed the value of the FTI asset at P20 billion, the government expected to earn less than that amount considering that privatization has failed at that price.

BUSINESS

World Bank raises growth forecast for RP

6.2% GDP expansion seen this year, 5% in 2011

By Michelle V Remo

THE WORLD Bank has raised its growth outlook for the Philippines for the year, citing growth in demand from the external and domestic fronts that was higher than initially anticipated.

The multilateral institution now expects the Philippine economy to grow 6.2 percent this year, up from its previous estimate of 4.4 percent.

Eric Le Borgne, World Bank country economist for the Philippines, said in a briefing yesterday that the robust growth of the country in the first half at 7.9 percent, came as a surprise given that new countries were recovering only modestly from last year's global recession.

"The Philippines is one of the few countries in the region that posted a growth of above 7 percent in the first half. This was brought by a mix of global and local factors as well as those that are transitory and permanent," he said.

Le Borgne said the stimulus spending by the government, which is likely to be withdrawn once the recovery becomes firm, and sustained growth in personal consumption were partly credited for the rapid expansion in the first semester.

He also cited rising foreign direct investments, particularly in the country's business process outsourcing sector.

The 7.9-percent growth in the first half was the fastest pace seen in more than 30 years. In 2009, the growth stood at a measly 1.1 percent, weighed down by overall loss in major export markets such as the United States.

For the second half, however, Le Borgne said the growth might slow down a bit as the economy returns to normal levels of production following a sharp recovery from last year's downturn.

For 2012, Le Borgne said, the World Bank expected growth of the Philippine economy to settle at 5 percent. This is lower than the government's official target of at least 7 percent annually starting 2012.

Le Borgne, however, said that while the World Bank expected growth of the Philippines to decelerate in the second half and in 2012 from the 7.9 percent in the first half of this year, growth could pick up in 2012 once the government successfully implemented its infrastructure development plan.

He was referring to the Public-Private Partnership Program being pursued by the Aquino administration. Under the PPP, the government invites private firms to invest in public infrastructure projects.

Vikram Nehru, chief economist of the World Bank for East Asia and the Pacific, said in a video conference she held yesterday that growth in most countries in the region would decelerate in the second half as economies return to normalcy.

Nehru presented the contents of the latest publication of the World Bank on its regional outlook on East Asia and the Pacific. He said the bank expected the region to grow on average 8.5 percent this year, lower than the 7.5 percent expansion last year.

He said the bullish outlook on economies in the region was the reason why foreign capital investments in the region were surging.

Nehru said central banks in the region had to be cautious and carefully monitor the inflows of resources to prevent the adverse effects of asset price bubbles and the risk of economic instability, which could happen after a sharp rise in currencies in the region.

"But should inflows remain strong, especially against a background of weak global growth, the authorities will be faced with the challenge of balancing the need for robust capital flows [especially foreign direct investment] while ensuring competitiveness, financial sector stability and low inflation," the report said.

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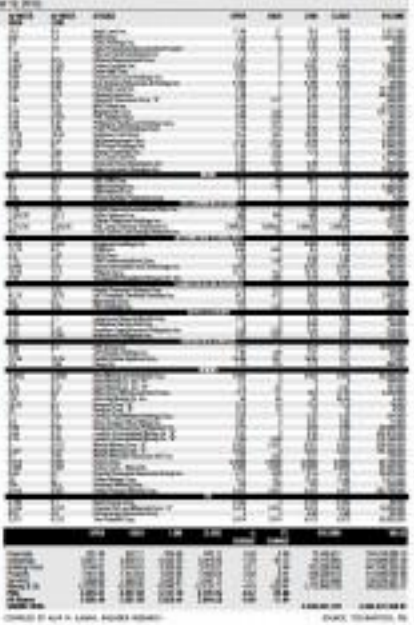

Lepanto raising P3B through rights offer

By Riza T. Olchondra

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. is raising P3 billion through a stock rights offer. Part of the proceeds will be used to develop the Victoria mining project.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Lepanto said that its board of directors approved an offer to shareholders to subscribe to one share of common stock for every 1.3 shares held at an offer price of P0.30 each.

Part of the proceeds will also be used to repay loans, suppliers and advances from shareholders.

Record and offer dates will be fixed and announced upon PSE approval of the petition letter application, the firm said.

The shares to be offered will come from an increase in the authorized capital stock of the company to P6.64 billion from P2.33 billion, which was approved by the shareholders during the annual meeting held on April 30, 2009.

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Canada	Dollar	1	0.956700	41.82
Switzerland	Franc	1	1.046400	45.75
Europe	Euro	1	1.387000	60.65
Australia	Dollar	1	0.894100	39.09
Hong Kong	Dollar	100	12.900000	564.10
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	1	0.266700	11.66
Brunei	Dollar	1	0.709000	31.00
Singapore	Dollar	1	0.801100	35.03
Thailand	Baht	100	3.230000	141.25
China	Yuan	1	0.146500	6.406
Taiwan	New Dollar	1	0.031000	1.355
Korea	Won	1,000	0.860000	37.61
Malaysia	Ringgit	1	0.320000	13.99
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Norway	Krone	1	0.176000	7.696
Sweden	Krona	1	0.135000	5.903
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Kuwait	Dinar	1	3.420000	149.54
Oman	Rial	1	2.600000	113.67
Qatar	Riyal	1	0.274700	12.01
Iceland	Krona	100	0.767000	33.54
New Zealand	Dollar	1	0.703000	30.74
Sweden	Krona	1	0.135000	5.903
Vietnam	Dong	10,000	0.000000	0.0019

Source: Bankers' Association of the Philippines, Inc. (BAP)
*Peso per unit of Foreign Currency **Dollar per unit of Foreign Currency

PSE-listed firms' 6-mo. profits up 20%

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PROFITS OF the country's listed firms grew by a fifth in the first half of the year, thanks to better economic conditions, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) reported yesterday.

The local bourse said combined net earnings of listed firms increased 20.1 percent to P222.2 billion in the first six months from P185.06 billion year-on-year, with almost all sectors performing better.

The 30 companies that make up the main index reported a 7.3-percent increase in their combined net earnings, the PSE said.

"The modest rise in the combined net income of listed firms was largely due to the increase in their business activities across all sectors," PSE president Hil Soares said in a statement.

"This is an indication of a broad-based growth among listed firms, which is consistent with the strong performance of the local economy. The general economic environment has also been very conducive for businesses with stable inflation rates and interest rates kept at low levels," he said.

The mining and oil sector led the growth in net earnings for the first half at 275.2 percent. The sector's growth was led by subsidiaries of Dominion Mining Corp. and Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., which both expanded operations in the period.

Other top performers were First Philippine Holdings Corp. and Lopez Holdings Corp. after both firms enjoyed a one-time gain from the sale of their 6.7-percent stake in Manila Electric Co.

Energy firm Aboitiz Power Corp. also moved to contribute higher revenues to its parent, Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.

JG Summit Holdings Inc.'s revenues increased as Phil.70 billion from P62.95 billion, largely due to the upsurge in net sales of Universal Robina Corp. and backed by higher sales volume and selling prices.

The expansions of mass banks' net interest income likewise showed up the financial sector's profits by 20.8 percent. The property sector also posted a 26.3-percent jump in net profits due to newly launched and completed projects in the first six months.

The services sector, meanwhile, showed a drop in its combined net earnings by 8.4 percent due largely to nonrecurring gains the previous year and an increase in operating expenses of some firms.

BUSINESS

Telcos move to restore services

Globe, Smart report minimal typhoon damage

By Paolo G. Montecillo

TELECOMMUNICATIONS services bogged down in areas hit by Typhoon Juan (International codename: Nesat) due to the loss of power caused by downed power lines.

But local phone firms said damage to their own networks was kept to a minimum thanks to lessons learned from last year's Tropical Storm Ondoy and Typhoon Pepeng, and that their services would be fully restored as soon as the power supply to the affected areas normalizes.

"Even during the height of Typhoon Juan, only 10 percent of our facilities (e.g. cell sites) in Southern Luzon were adversely affected, mainly due to the loss of commercial power. Restoration works were immediately conducted to normalize operations," Ayala-led Globe Telecom said in a statement.

"The preparations for the typhoon and other disasters as learned from Ondoy paid off. Quick action teams and on-ground support were immediately deployed to provide disaster relief where necessary," Globe spokesperson Yoly Crisanto said in a statement.

As of late Tuesday afternoon, the company said only 2 percent of its equipment in the affected areas were not working.

In a separate statement, Smart Communications Inc. said its services continued to operate. However, the lack of power left some areas without coverage.

"We've designed our network so that we combine large cell sites with smaller indoor or street level cell sites. Our large cell sites have their own generators so they continue to operate," the company said.

However, in smaller sites on reliant on commercial power. "Repair work has been ongoing since yesterday, immediately after the typhoon left the area. Restoration of full service levels will however depend on the restart of adequate power supplies."

Meanwhile, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) said it had opened up two emergency radio frequencies that governments and private-sector groups can utilize to coordinate search and rescue efforts on the ground.

Push to cut perks gains ground

By Nimfa V. Ordinario

SENATOR RALPH G. RECTO renewed the push to remove incentives in foreign investors, such as income tax holiday and exemption from the value-added tax, when the filed Senate Bill No. 2142, which provided for the rationalization of tax perks.

The Senate Environment Planning secretary explained that the bill would rationalize the country's system of fiscal incentives, which only led to wasteful tax breaks.

"Jobs created could not represent true payouts of total employment levels," he said. "We could not even recoup half of our foregone revenue of P202.76 billion [a year] as we are only getting $2.0 billion in foreign investments."

Recto said the foregone revenue could be enough to build 8,727 school buildings, pave 16,000 kilometers of road, and allow for an increase of basic pay of 1.4 million government workers.

5 prospective oil, gas sites up for exploration

By Amy R. Remo

UP TO five exploration wells are expected to be drilled off Cebu and Palawan next year to give investors an idea of the resources trapped in the prospective oil and gas fields, said Energy Undersecretary Ramon Allan V. Oca.

According to Oca, the companies that are expected to drill include Australian firm Mabe Petroleum Ltd., Hong Kong-based Philweld Petroleum International Co. Ltd., Nasmian Energy Ltd., and China International Mining Petroleum Co. Ltd.

Oca said Nasmian Energy Ltd. would drill a well in the East Visayan basin covered by Service Contract (SC) 51.

The 350,000-hectare field holds the Argao and Bulay prospects, apart from nine other leads.

Drilling of the nearest to-go prospect alone, which is expected to cost some $30 million, may yield at least 300 million barrels in recoverable oil in the company. Based on the company's studies, part of the Argao prospect may even have eight levels, each containing up to 300 million barrels of oil.

Philweld Petroleum will also drill a petroleum exploration well at the Central Luzon finds, which is covered by Service Contract 70.

As of end-2009, the country's total potential oil and natural gas resources had been estimated at 8,869.56 bore barrels of oil equivalents.

Amending Epira won't solve power woes, says expert

By Abigail L. Ho

AMENDING PARTS of RA 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, to cut the reliance on the country's power woes, according to energy industry experts, who maintain that better implementation of the law may prove to be a better fix.

Speaking to members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp. president and former Energy Secretary Francisco Viray said amending the law at this crucial time was "not advisable."

"Amendments to make up for the deficiencies of the law may have to be done some time. (But) amendments will let all down the current situation, and there cannot be passed overnight," he said.

Fortune National Transmission Corp. president and now San Miguel Global Power Holdings Corp. president Alan Ortiz added that even if the law were to be amended now, it would be impossible to have the new version of the law passed within the term of the current administration.

Instead of concentrating on amending the law, Ortiz said, the industry would be better off doing something to address the problem of lack of capacity.

He cited San Miguel Global's plan to put up 3,000 megawatts in new capacity "as quickly as we can make it."

Also, Ernesto Pantangco, president of the Philippine Independent Power Producers Association, said the group would put on its position not to change the current law.

"We are against any Epira amendment. We need consistency in regulations and laws. Amendments will only create uncertainty among investors," he said in a separate presentation.

BUSINESS

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Dollar inflows pushed Sept. BOP to new high

Investors' bias for emerging markets also cited by BSP

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SURPLUS in the country's balance of payments (BOP) hit a record high of $3.06 billion in September, a result partly of a new recording system and a host of other factors, such as the surge in foreign portfolio investments and additional loans extracted by creditors from abroad.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the BOP surplus in September was more than five times higher than the $611 million recorded in the same month last year.

About $1.1 billion of the increase, however, was accounted for by the quota allocation for the Philippines by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Countries that are members of the IMF are given quota allocations by the multilateral agency.

But even if the quota allocation by the IMF is excluded, the remaining $1.96-billion was still over three times higher than the surplus in September last year.

For the first nine months, the BOP surplus stood at $6.34 billion, up 48 percent from $4.6 billion in the same period last year.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that besides the new system of computation of the BOP, the rise in the BOP surplus was also due to the foreign exchange operations of the BSP and the foreign currency-denominated loans obtained by the national government.

Given the appreciation of the peso so far this year, the BSP is forced to buy more dollars from the foreign exchange market to temper the local currency's rise. Market players said the peso would have even been stronger if not for the intervention of the BSP in the foreign exchange market.

The national government also tapped more loans from the foreign exchange market to support its stimulus programs and to pay off maturing obligations.

The BSP chief likewise said the increase in the BOP surplus was the due to the rising investments in instruments issued from the Philippines.

"This development was partly a reflection of the global shift of capital flows into emerging markets, including the Philippines," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

The Philippines and other emerging markets in Asia have been experiencing a surge in foreign capital inflows, largely in the form of portfolio investments, on the back of a bullish growth outlook on the economies in the region.

Power plant, oil depot get BOI approval

By Abigail L. Ho

A NEW power plant and oil depot worth a combined P11 billion have secured approvals from the Board of Investments for various fiscal and non-fiscal incentives.

Petron Corp. is putting up a P10.84-billion solid fuel-fired power plant in Limay, Bataan, the output of which will mainly be used to power the operations of the oil firm's Bataan refinery.

Of the plant's total 70-megawatt (MW) capacity, Petron said 61 percent would supply the refinery's power requirements, while the remaining 39 percent would be sold to the grid via bilateral supply contracts, possibly with the Manila Electric Co. and other electric cooperatives.

The power facility will have coal as its primary fuel, but will also use petroleum coke, whichever is generally a cheaper fuel source.

According to Petron, the plant will be commissioned by July 2012 and will employ 79 individuals.

The BOI also approved the registration of Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. for

POWER, B3

Lender plans to double loans extended to RP

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE WORLD Bank intends to double the loans it extends to the Philippines, saying it is eager to help the Aquino administration ensure its economic growth surges.

Bert Hofman, country representative of the World Bank to the Philippines, said in a press conference yesterday that the bank's officials and the government's economic team recently discussed the directives of the foreign lender's assistance to the Philippines for 2019.

He said the two parties had already agreed on some projects, and that the World Bank would be amenable to increase the amount of loans committed for the Philippines to help accelerate growth of the domestic economy.

"We are looking at doubling the assistance from last year," Hofman said.

Under the World Bank's country assistance strategy (CAS) for the Philippines, it agreed to lend anywhere between $700 million and $1 billion for 2018.

One of the first projects the World Bank expects to finance for 2019 is the Regional Infrastructure Growth Project (RIGP), for which the bank may extend $350 million (about P18.3 billion).

Under the project, the World Bank will release the money to the Development Bank of the Philippines which, in turn, will use it to fund various infrastructure projects around the country.

Another project the World Bank is keen on funding is the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay and the enhancement of the country's sewage disposal system.

"We are also looking at providing additional support for the CCT (Conditional Cash Transfer Program)," Hofman said.

Under the CCT, the government will extend monthly allowances to some of the poorest households, enabling the poor to reap the benefits of a growing economy.

The program is a response to the peculiar problem of the Philippines, where the benefits of economic growth fail to trickle down to the poor.

Select recipients of the subsidies will be required to send children to school, while mothers must regularly visit health centers.

According to Hofman, the World Bank believes that the expansion of CCT to cover as many of the poorest households as possible will help reduce poverty incidence in the country, which is estimated at about a third of the population.

Also, the World Bank is willing to support the Aquino administration's Public Private Partnership (PPP) program, Hofman said. Under the program, the government will solicit investments from the private sector for the development of public infrastructure.

The World Bank may play a role in the PPP by providing guarantees to loans taken out by private firms to fund infrastructure projects.

"We can provide some guarantees to support private investments [in public infrastructure projects]. We have done this in other countries, and we can do this in the Philippines," Hofman said.

Power page B9

Power . . .

its P125-million oil depot in Tabangao, Batchelor City.

The storage facility will have the capacity to hold 4.9 million liters of various petroleum products, including gasoline, diesel, biodiesel and aviation fuel.

The oil firm's fuel supply will come from a number of regional sources such as Singapore Petroleum Corp., Chevron Singapore, Overseas Malaysia and Petronas Petroleum Taiwan.

Its major wholesale customers include FL Fedring, Excalibur Trucking, Galactic Shipping Corp. and Mercu Diesel Corp.

Phoenix Petroleum also sells its products via its own retail outlets, primarily located within Mindanao, as well as on wholesale basis to other commercial and industrial customers, mostly in Batangas.

The new depot will start commercial operations by next month, generating 13 new jobs.

Projects granted pioneer status, such as the Petrois and Phoenix Petroleum projects, will enjoy such as: income tax holiday, duty-free importation of capital equipment, plus other fiscal and non-fiscal perks.

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BUSINESS

Hot money threatens East Asia

Excessive inflows a threat to stability, World Bank warns

TOKYO/PALO ALTO, California—Surging capital inflows threaten Asia's economic stability, the World Bank warned on Tuesday, a day after US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner sought to draw the venom from a global row over currencies by vowing not to devalue the dollar.

The World Bank borrowed the arguments made by China and others that US policies are sending a wave of cash flowing into higher-yielding emerging markets, undermining their export competitiveness and pumping up inflation and asset bubbles.

"We are seeing an effort by developing East Asia to deal with the large amounts of liquidity driven to very large part by the monetary policy easing in the United States," Vikram Nehru, the bank's chief economist for Asia Pacific, told reporters in Tokyo.

Nehru, presenting a semi-annual report, urged policymakers to learn the lessons of the 1997/98 Asian financial crisis, when an influx of freshwater global capital inflated property and equity prices, only for them to collapse when the money flows reversed.

"The authorities in East Asia need to take adequate precautions to ensure that they do not repeat the same mistake twice in slightly over a decade," the report said.

While capital controls were not very effective in controlling long-term investment flows, they could help as an array of instruments to deal with rising inflows, the World Bank said.

"If this liquidity abundance is sustained and increases, I think they are going to have to take further action," Nehru said.

Thailand introduced a withholding tax on foreign purchases of government bonds last week, and Brazil on Monday increased an existing tax on foreign bond buyers to 6 percent from 4 percent.

Foreign investors in Brazil will also have to pay more tax to trade currency derivatives, blamed in part for driving up the real, the country's currency, to a ten-year high.

"Our objective is to reduce foreign investments into Brazil," Finance Minister Guido Mantega told reporters in Sao Paulo.

Strains over the competition of exchange rates needed to put global growth on a more solid, sustainable footing are likely to dominate a meeting of finance ministers of the Group of 20 major economies in South Korea starting on Friday.

The dispute boils down essentially to the exchange rate of the yuan, also known as the renminbi.

The United States, supported by most economists, believes Beijing is unfairly holding the yuan down to give its exporters an advantage in global markets.

This is causing a broader misalignment of global currencies, Washington contends, because other developing countries are reluctant to lose competitiveness versus China by not matching their own currencies to appreciate in isolation.

Speaking in Palo Alto, California, Geithner said he believed China would continue to let the yuan rise in and the rebalancing of its economy away from exports and toward domestic growth. Reuters

iPhone, iPad sales boost Apple income

SAN FRANCISCO—Apple on Monday reported record quarterly revenue led by blockbuster sales of its latest generation iPhone and both deals a climb Google and Research in Motion.

The California-based company said that its net profit in the quarter ending Sept. 25 soared 70 percent to $4.31 billion as unprecedented sales of thin-to-the computers, iPhones and iPads.

"We are blown away to report over $20 billion in revenue and over $4 billion in after-tax earnings...both all-time records for Apple," said Apple chief executive Steve Jobs.

Apple reported record revenue of $20.34 billion in the fourth quarter of its fiscal year, up from $12.21 billion a year ago.

Apple said it sold 3.89 million Macintosh computers during the quarter, up 27 percent from a year ago, 14.1 million iPhones, up 91 percent from a year ago, and 4.19 million iPads, up from 3.3 million the previous quarter.

Apple said it sold 9.31 million iPods during the quarter, down 11 percent from a year ago.

Jobs said during an earnings call that iPhone "handily" outsold Blackberry and that he didn't see the handsets made by Canada-based Research in Motion catching up any time soon.

He then took aim at Google and its Android software for mobile phones.

Jobs downplayed claims that approximately 200,000 Android mobile devices are activated daily, saying that daily activations for Apple gadgets averaged 275,000 in the past 30 days.

"We are confident our approach will triumph over Google's fragmented approach," Jobs said.

While Android touts being "open" software that handset makers can craft into devices as they wish, Apple's "closed" approach does it control of many from the hardware to the software.

"The closed approach enables Apple to make products they believe create the best customer experience," said NPD analyst Stan Stahls. "The carriers don't are having in the market validates that many consumers believe that is true." Jobs contended that the array of smartphone makers putting various spins on Android software will be "a mess" for users and application makers. AFP

A POLICEMAN patrols past a decoration designed to celebrate upcoming G20 summit to be held in November, at Gimpo airport in Seoul. Currency tensions will be in focus finance leaders at a Group of 20 meeting later this week.

Crude oil prices fall as US inventories rise

SINGAPORE—Oil fell on Tuesday, retracing part of the previous session's gain, as investors reversed bets in the face of a stronger dollar and concerns that rising crude inventories in top consumer the United States.

US crude for November fell 49 cents to $82.58 a barrel, after climbing 2.23 percent on Monday, the biggest percentage gain in two weeks, while ICE Brent for December declined 64 cents to $83.71.

The dollar rose by almost 0.6 percent against a basket of currencies on Tuesday after US Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner said his country would not engage in competitive devaluation.

"The biggest problem that we've got is that whenever we get customers about stimulus, that's the first question we get," he said. "The dollar and the price of commodities goes artificially higher, driven by sentiment," said Jonathan Barratt, managing director at Commsec, by Broking Services in Sydney.

"But it's a self-defeating activity because commodities have to be priced in euro. The economies are not good and there is no immediate demand. If there was, why would we need more stimulus?"

A federal Reserve report on Monday said US industrial production fell in September, against analyst expectations it would rise while capacity utilization eased slightly. The report was viewed as supportive of expectations for more monetary easing.

US gasoline consumption fell 1.3 percent in the four weeks to Oct. 8 from a year earlier, while the nation's total oil demand fell 0.8 percent, government statistics showed.

Although oil prices traders were seen tightening due to maintenance at timelines in Russia and strike-idled plants in France, US crude stockpiles probably rose by 1.6 million barrels last week, a Reuters survey showed, for their second gain in three weeks, as imports rose with operations at the Houston Ship Channel reopening to normal.

US inventories of distillate fuel, including heating oil and diesel, probably fell by 1 million barrels last week, according to a Reuters poll ahead of industry group the American Petroleum Institute's (API) weekly supply statistics on Tuesday to be followed by government statistics from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) on Wednesday. Reuters

Gold also slides amid US dollar strength

SINGAPORE—Gold edged lower on Tuesday, pressured by a stronger dollar, but analysts spoke of further monetary easing by the US central bank is likely to keep investors' bullishness.

The dollar rose more than half a percent against a basket of currencies, extending gains made in the previous session after US Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner said his country would not engage in dollar devaluation.

"Gold is likely to continue the rally before the Federal Reserve meeting in early November. Unless the Fed announces quantitative easing to a huge amount, gold will retain," said Ong Yilin, general manager of the research and development department of Jingyi Futures in Shanghai.

"It's all about buying the dollar decline. Once the result is out, it's time to close positions." US industrial output shrank last month for the first time in more than a year, a sign the economy was in a slow growth rut that appears certain to lead to more stimulus from the central bank.

Spot gold fell $2.8 to $1,365.05 an ounce, after reaching in a tight range of less than $5 in the previous session.

US gold futures for December delivery fell 0.4 percent to $1,366.1.

Technical analysts showed that gold could rise to $1,388.73, as the retracement is seen to have ended at $1,352.35, a low touched on Monday, according to Reuters market analyst Meng Tao.

"The support level is at $1,350. Gold is likely to trade around the current level, until we know how much the stimulus is going to be," said a Hong Kong-based dealer.

He added that premiums were little changed from last week, at about 70 cents above London prices.

"Demand from China is steady, as people still like to buy gold, betting on prices to rise to $1,400, $1,500 and even $1,600. The yuan appreciation also helps buying from China." China has let its currency rise more audibly in recent weeks after stopping it from the dollar to June, but a central bank spokesperson said the country must ensure the yuan moves in a controllable way and not become over-reliance in response to market forces.

Spot silver was down 0.4 percent at $24.28 an ounce, gaining 4.6 percent so far this year, heading gains in the precious metals complex.

Holdings in the iShares Silver Trust, the world's largest silver-backed exchange-traded fund, remained at a peak of 10,224.95 tons by Oct 18. Reuters

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Tess Lyn Jacob
E-mail us at motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Edited by Jong R. Arcano

How to sell your car for a good price

By Boichi Sarino

WE HAVE all seen and read guides on how to buy a good, used second-hand car for a bargain, but I have yet to read an article about a proper selling guide for car owners who want to move on and upgrade to the newest and latest model. Understand that this short guide isn't about cheating up your car's flaws and any underhand incident it might have suffered. At the end, transparency and honesty are still the best policies. You want the buyer to trust you, and also for you to show that you never neglected your car in any point by giving it good care. A lot of these tips aim to reinforce the impression of utmost care and attention that's given to your car. But this same guide can be used as well when buying a car, just switch your perspective and it all makes sense.

1 Record your car's full service history.

Reading through foreign magazines, where used cars are listed for sale, you'll often see the acronym FSH. That means full service history. Record all the work done on your car (PMS servicing, body and collision work, key component replacement like alternator, compressor, engine parts etc) in a single document (employ web diaries, what was changed, where or who changed it and the matching receipts from the dealership or your favorite independent service shop. Keep them in a folder and present them in the future to any prospective buyer. Also, record the type of fluids you used for your car, how often you changed those fluids and when was the last time you changed them. The use of high performance, high quality and better than OEM fluids such as coolant, brake, clutch and power steering fluids is a sign of good care from you.

Some people take it further and create an MS Excel file so they can monitor their expenses over the years as well. This is a good idea for car purposes since you can save up all your expenses and charge them versus your income/cash.

2 Clean it inside and out, ideally by a professional detailer.

I have seen so many fully loaded cars with the wildest audio-video systems installed, the biggest and widest wheels, the most impressive sport-type bucket seats with matching 4-point harness on show-worthy cars that wound up being for sale, the owners wanting to unload the car to embark on a new project. There's one problem. One to lack of general, everyday use. These cars tend to have a funky smell, a sign of fungus formation somewhere inside the car due to humidity, which is quite frankly unavoidable in our very hot and humid country. Prospective buyers tend to avoid these cars because the smell is a sign of neglect on the owner's part. It might be a precursor to other more serious signs of neglect to a car.

Likewise with the various cars that have so many added-on body parts like whole body kits, aftermarket wheels, carbon-fiber hoods, trunks and spoilers: several to age poorly over time. Both carbon fiber and fiberglass, when exposed to the elements wear poorly and fade, bubble or crack. The best thing to do is remove them and bring the car back to stock, or have a professional detailer or paint and body shop remove the fit and finish on these components.

Get it all done by a professional to ensure that the quality of work is of the highest possible quality. the car looks really clean, smooth and smells good. Once done, be careful when you use it until it is sold.

Don't forget to have the engine bay professionally detail as well. A clean engine bay means you regularly popped the hood to check on the engine and its condition, a reassuring sign for the buyer.

3 If your car is modified, keep all the old, stock parts and put them back on when you decide to sell the car, to tell the potential buyer that you have all the stock parts in safe-keeping which you can turn over to them once the car is sold.

Get really nice aftermarket wheels? That alloy rare JDM dry-carbon hood and trunk? Dual-adjustable coilovers from Germany? Impressive for you and me, but it might not be so impressive to moms and dads looking for a new ride for their kid. All those aftermarket components will not add any premium to your car unless you're selling it to a fellow enthusiast.

Coalition bats for safer local roads

By Emman Cena

IN JUNE this year, a coaster bus plummeted into a 32-meter ravine while negotiating a downhill section on a highway in Camarines, Cebu, in which 29 were killed while 39 sustained. A month later, A RJ 8 Sta Cruz vehicle traversed downhill and struck a concrete fence in Toledo City (also in Cebu), leaving 15 people dead and 45 injured. In August, twenty-seven individuals were killed with two commuter vehicles' front cars were hit head-on by a public bus in Tanauan, Batangas.

The scenes of road accidents is more than alarming that it has practically not authority to find something to find ways to address them. Motorcycling has since gathered its tasks and stakeholders, the media, business and other concerned the need to increase road safety awareness in the country following the recent bad road accidents.

Key to these efforts is Input Philippines, a coalition created last week in Makati City to an event that gathered both private and public groups in one advocacy. To make the Philippines a safer place.

The coalition, which has for its members the Metro Manila Development and Authority (MMDA), the Department of Labor and Employment, Limb Bloggers and Safety Organization of the Philippines Inc (Sept), will work together to further increase road safety initiatives. It will also hold seminars, lectures and information propaganda that seek to touch all levels of the society—from drivers to commuters.

The coalition points to human error as the culprit behind those fatal accidents. These happen when people (drivers alike, fail to do something required such as forgetting to have a vehicle and if drivers plan to do the right thing but with the wrong outcome like making an accidental wrong turn.

A recent survey of the most popular modes of transport in Metro Manila revealed that the major factors that contribute to accidents are all be classified under human error. Very few percent of drivers identified vehicle malfunction traceable to neglect or inaction for accidents. 44 percent cited corresponding 23 percent mentioned overloading; and 12 percent used breaking traffic rules.

Other factors point to bodily conditions. Eighty five percent of respondents agree that when a driver is "not feeling well," it makes driving more challenging. Many factors are: fatigue, sleepiness, disrupted headaches, fever and body pains as the most common ones while on the road.

Taking inspiration from the popular Hispanic tagline "Input" (uplifted by an equally popular street input Filipinos influences that at the heart of human error is a disregard for safety.

In a press conference, Joey Hermoso of Unilab-Megaside road causing awareness, recounting personal experiences, and rolling out programs on safety are integral pillars of the advocacy. The coalition is through Unilab-Bioguard, will distribute "input kits" composed of a packet that contains headache management tips and a safety first aid kit to be given out to the PNP Highway Patrol Group Patrollers and drivers in the metro.

"It's unfortunate how many of the factors that result in accidents like corresponding, negative habits, violation of traffic signs and 'sarap ng pakiramdam' could have all been otherwise avoided," asserted Hermoso.

Col. Edwin Bonanza of PNP-HPG said that since January to September this year, about 12,000 traffic-related accidents have been recorded. 1,000 of which were fatal.

COALITION pursues: unite the input Pledges to a symbolic action of support. From left, Engr. Linus Lim (MMDA), Atty. Dino Zuñiga (Input), Col. Bonanza (PNP) and Joey Hermoso (Unilab).

Doctor drives most durable Nissan Sentra

WHAT IS enough, enough?

Don't ask Dr. Edmund Lagumbay, who boasts the longest-running Nissan Sentra, a 20-year-old model that has racked up almost 470,000 kilometers—and still counting.

Dr. Lagumbay's car was issued by Nissan Motor Philippines, Inc. (NMPI) as the vehicle with the highest certified mileage in its "Longest Running Sentra" contest launched in July. In addition to bragging rights, he received an LG 3-D TV with Home Theater for his prize.

According to Dr. Lagumbay, 46, a general surgeon who practices in his own clinic in Taguig and in Calamba, Nueva Ecija, he became a fan of Nissan Sentra after trying out his brother's car, bought in 1980. "I took a ride and fell in love with it," he said, and a year later, bought his own.

He immediately began piling on the kilometers, thanks in part to the every-day drive around the metro, and the 115-kilometer trip to Calamba from Nueva Ecija, where he currently resides. Presently, he has even gone further to Gumaca, which is more than 150 kilometers from Manila.

Despite the regular long drive, Dr. Lagumbay said he has never felt tired even on board his dependable workhorse. "I'm not a very technical person so when it comes to vehicles, but I feel safe with my car. To say that my Nissan Sentra is durable would be an understatement—it has served me well for 20 years without any major repairs. It has survived the wear and tear. I made it a point to change oil, and its engine and chassis are intact. In fact, I would compare it to a tough, muscular man na matanggap—literally speaking, that is, because of its cool air conditioning system," he joked.

Dr. Lagumbay says despite its age, his beloved car would not be retiring anytime soon. In fact, he plans on entrusting his Nissan Sentra to a makaanak.

He is quick to admit that with the new models rolling out in the market, he is tempted to buy another Nissan vehicle. He finds the Nissan Sentra 200 and Nissan X-Trail very attractive. But with a Nissan Sentra still considered suitable for his long drive during weekends. However, Dr. Lagumbay claims loyalty to his 1990-model Nissan Sentra.

"Until when I will use it, I still don't know! It's not my choice; it's the car's—as long as it's running, it's fine. Nissan Sentra will keep its role as my reliable partner. Who knows, even my sons?" Dr. Lagumbay said.

How to sell your car for a good price

From page B3-1

In fact, to my experience, it sends a negative signal to the potential public that you need to sell your hand, hence the car's mechanical integrity is suspect. Here are your car back to its original state, unless again you'll be selling the car to a fellow enthusiast.

Read more: If you do sell your modified car to a fellow enthusiast, in practice, you can even ask for a slight premium since all the stock parts are still available, and you know that your fellow enthusiast will save up to buy all the aftermarket parts you already have in your car.

4 Have the car serviced before any potential buyer drops by and asks for a test drive.

Change all the fluids and filters. Check tire wear, pump up the tires, have it aligned if needed and tighten all the body nuts and engine mounting bolts to give the car that extra tight feel. Remember, you want your car to have a good impressions on the potential buyer. The buyer will probably open the oil filler cap, pull out the dipstick and check the reservoirs for the brake fluid, clutch fluid, power steering fluid or to see the level, color and condition of the fluids. Make sure they are clean and clear or opaque in the case of engine and gear oils. The most easily inspected but very obvious fluid to replace? The coolant. All he wants of buying a car that has red in the coolers. That means the owner used tap water for cooling, or never bothered to flush out and replace the coolant and some. Using tap water for coolers mix oxidizes your engine's internal cooling gallery, clogs up your radiator and will pitch the rumor of the water pump.

It is also a good time to remove all your personal effects. A car is a car, not a locker nor a house. Clothes, shoes, throw pillows and those air-fresheners hanging on the back of your rear windshield might look amusing, but totally disgusting and works of bad taste to another buyer. Likewise remove all the decals and stickers on the windshields and body panels and have the surfaces underneath them waxed to remove all the adhesive left on.

5 Fix all the obvious accessories

Are you added a billet audio system, added auxiliary gauges, lower iconic tribe and a turbo fitted to your OEM turbocharged car plus a high-tech stereo. And they work great. Now, quickly remove the carpet and dash panels and wrap them all up in protective wire conduit with a good measure of electrical tape thrown in for free. Now hide them carefully underneath the carpet and dash panels and secure them in place with zip ties. Why go through the hassle? There's always a lot of buyers walk away from cars with audio tech setting all over the cabin and dash and for good reasons: electrical problems usually start from added-on electrical components and a spider-web of wires is just begging for a short circuit or worse, a small electrical fire. Plus it is a good thing if, despite all your additional electrical accessories, your car still has Dual Aiser, OEM d'oish. A good tip here is have a professional automotive electrician rig up all the current wires in those hidden electrical spaces.

On the engine bay, line up all the electrical relays on one side of the frame rail so the buyer can see, check and replace them with ease in the future if needed.

6 Complete all the slips, bolts, screws, nuts and all other fasteners of your car

Once done and through use, all the fasteners of your car wind up getting lost for one reason or another. Drop by your favorite auto supply store and buy up all the missing fasteners. Missing fasteners are again a sign of neglect on your part as the owner. It is also a good time to replace all old, rusted and oxidized metal screws and nuts particularly around the engine bay vibrates heat and exposure to the elements take their toll on all the metal components.

7 Make sure all the paperwork is in order

Before selling your car, make sure the LTO registration is updated and the under- and 4-year car insurance (input), present a copy of the latest one of Tax Document to the buyer, along with the insurance policies for both TPL and comprehensive coverage where applicable.

8 Be honest

This is the hardest part. But a clear conscience is important when you sell the car. Tell the owner where you used the car most, if you tried brought it to the race track, if it was involved in any unreported incident/s, or if you used our spline, screwed in front or replacement, non-OEM components etc. Keeping facts from the buyer hurts a way of coming back to haunt you.

Chevy Motorama at Mall of Asia

TCCCI gives you all the reasons to "Love this Chevy" with car display on October 21-23

THE CONVENANT Car Company Inc (TCCCI) roars its engines on Oct. 21-23 at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall for the most anticipated Chevy car display event of the year, the Chevy Motorama. A gathering of all existing and soon to be Chevy car owners, enthusiasts and car fanatics, Chevrolet Philippines showcases the latest offerings, services, packages and activities that it has to offer.

"The Chevy Motorama is an extension for all Chevy lovers and would be Chevy lovers to gather under one roof and enjoy all things Chevy!" exclaimed Lyn M. Bueta, director, Marketing Services Division for TCCCI. "Our commitment to the public is to provide them with worry-free after sales services, special ownership packages and outstanding Chevrolet automobiles that complement and complete their lifestyle with all convenience in this event."

Visitors of the Chevy Motorama can expect the best ever discounts, freebies, savings and prizes from Chevrolet. Catch the latest line up of Chevrolet vehicles from the iconic Camaro alongside its classic counterpart in a preview of the All New Spark from great discounts, to alternative promos and services, to the latest in savings. Freebies, prizes and free hand gifts galore. The Chevy Motorama has all these to offer and more.

Guests will receive a P10,000 Chevy Great Coupon discount voucher while stocks last. Chevrolet owners and fan clubs purchasing will get an additional P10,000 Chevy Great Coupon discount voucher which they can use to purchase a Genie on top of the existing Chevy Savers Plan promotion. The Chevy Great Coupon discount voucher can be used to terms and conditions) for the purchase of any variant of the Chevrolet Optra Gentra the Meteora era event chart.

General Chevy owners can also avail themselves of a free Technical Consultation and 19-point check up with the Chevy Doctors on duty. Lucky Chevy Aficionados and Accessories booth visitors may also win P500 service vouchers which may be availed of at the customer's Chevy dealer of choice until Nov. 30, 2014.

Visitors can also get the best and most affordable payment schemes on Chevy vehicles through the Chevy Savers Plans Promo. Chevrolet spends up with its zero shopping deals offering amazing 0% interest rates, 0% down payment and below 30% down payment, all to Packages with low down payments, or an amazing Drive Now Pay Now promo that 50% down payment with a 60-month payment term with low monthly payments and a pay month balloon payment of 1 months to model be customers. Three visits area promos allow buyers to drive home their very own Chevy Cruze, Chevy Caprice and Chevy Aveo through their low financing schemes and shopping discount package options.

Patrons and on-the-spot buyers can also join the Chevy Motorama raffle draws, games and activities like the Chevy Reel-A-Prize and the Guess the Number of Silver promo for a chance to win New Subaru Xtrek, Free Chevy Gas, Private Hard cart, Top Gear magazine, Metro Magazine subscriptions, SM discovery center tickets, Transformers toys, and exclusive Chevrolet merchandise. A Chevrolet Motorcade featuring the range of Chevrolet automobiles including the iconic Camaro and the Chevy Motorsports line will also make the rounds along the Mall of Asia grounds.

Chevy Motorama giveaways also await really sophisticate. Plus, take photos with Bumblebee and Optimus Prime all for free!

Absolutely no entrance fee is required, so fall in love with Chevrolet all over again at the Chevy Motorama now! See Open or visit www.chevy.com.ph for more details and information.

Honda keeps the sky blue for children

HONDA CARS Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) celebrates 20 years of providing the local market with high-quality automobiles. Steadily refinishes and high quality services to bring customers their joy and satisfaction.

As it marks its 20th year of operations, HCPI affirms its commitment to the preservation and conservation of the environment. HCPI embraces this beginning campaign of Honda Foundation, Inc., Sanchez Honda, way back in 1999 to have blue skies for our children. Being the largest engine manufacturer in the world, Honda is dedicated in making modernization work in harmony with nature by producing clean and fuel efficient engines.

In October over 240,000 persons, HCPI celebrates 20 years of keeping the skies blue with the Honda Heritage Raffle Promo. Grand prize winners get to visit Japan and experience Honda's newest passion, challenging spirit and rich heritage of creating. Honda's safety and environmental friendly mobility choices. They will also get to visit the Honda Collection Hall in Twin Ring Motegi which houses approximately 200 restored motorcycles, automobiles, power products and racing machines.

Open to all Honda owners, one can carry Honda Heritage raffle coupon in the Honda dealership where the unit was purchased or any Honda vehicle from its 20 dealerships nationwide. Each model has a corresponding number of raffle coupons. Every City and Jazz purchase entries you to 10 raffle coupons whereas Civic, CRV and Accord purchases equates to 15, 17 and 20 coupons, respectively. Another reason to visit a Honda dealership is by visiting any authorized Honda dealer, inquire or test drive any model and answer four simple questions about Honda. These showroom inquiries and test drive customers get to earn 1 coupon. Meanwhile, online savvy Honda owners can also earn 1 coupon by simply visiting www.hondaphil.com, HCPI's facebook account and answer four Honda questions.

Aside from Japan, Honda Heritage prizes also offers cash prizes in Pesos, Yens, gas, and loads of free Fuel cards. Promo runs from Dec. 15 Dec. 15, 2014.

No splash of money from major auto companies for Korean GP

SEOUL—SOUTH Korea is hosting its first Formula One Grand Prix this week, but the event will be missing the country's top automakers eager to lure their brands to match their stunning emergence as a global carmakers.

The premier motorsport event had been viewed as a good opportunity to transform Korean firms' dowdy image as makers of affordable cars into that premium segment, and help expand their presence in Europe, where they have a small market share.

There has been speculation that Hyundai Motor Co., one of the top global performers during the financial crisis, could signal its intent to join F1 to explore Japan's Toyota Motor and Honda Motor.

Toyota, the world's largest carmaker, and Honda both dropped out in the last two years, hit by the global economic recession and their lack of success on the track reluctant to rise from a pile of millions of dollars ploughed into the sport.

But Hyundai Motor Group, which includes the country's number-two car maker Kia Motors, and which sponsored big sports events such as the soccer World Cup and the Olympics, has mixed out speculation it would create its own F1 team.

"The Grand Prix could be a gateway to becoming a premium car brand, but Hyundai is simply not interested in Formula One," an F1 industry official told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

"It also requires long-term investment of several years at least and it's doubtful whether Hyundai has that patience."

Hyundai is striving to boost its image in the US and Europe, and to expand its presence into the mid- and large-sized car segments, from its stronghold in compact cars.

"The utmost priority is to boost brand image in Europe," Chung Eui-sun, vice chairman of Hyundai Motor and son of chairman Chung Mong-koo, said on the Paris Motor Show last month.

In Europe, the Hyundai and Kia brands have a market share of just 4.5 percent as of September, although that was up from 4.1 percent a year earlier, reflecting their comparative strength in slower global market conditions.

Hyundai said its resolution is the lack of brand recognition rather than cuts in positions, but a failure by its Asian rivals with F1 has likely made it cautious splashing money on motor racing.

Toyota failed to win a single race after seven years in F1 and spent an estimated $300 million on its Cologne, Germany based team in 2008, a figure only exceeded by Honda. Honda posted disappointing results in 2008 before withdrawing in 2009. Reuters

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TRIVI-AL NOTES

DEARLY DEPARTED

82 YEARS SPENT making history. Because Motoring remembers some of the cars (among) dearly departed brands.

Edsel - Jul. 1, 1955 - Oct. 1, 1960.

Edsel was a subsidiary of General Motors and was created to compete against European automobile imports that were gaining steady gathering bigger market share in the 50 models. Edsel's 18th car was finally taken off following the unfortunate reception given to the 1958 models. Although Edsel introduced 101 models throughout, Edsel's cousin car was sold by the Edsel-Lincoln Division. Some of the last Edsels models produced were practically identical to Lincoln-Mercury cars, models like the Edsel Pacesetter the Ford Mustang and the Edsel Citation with the Ford II.

Pontiac - Aug. 10, 1907 to Nov 31, 2009

From the first and final brought up the original muscular brand GTO, this car GM's performance brand since the 1960s. And like its father Bonneville and its namesake who lived from 1723 to 1755, the spirit of the Pontiac lives on and Monday's popular models will be given a new life under Chevrolet, GMC and Buick brands. The GM will be given to Chevrolet on the Lacuna Coil Caprice, GMC will take the Torrent, as the Torrent model while Pontiac's G8 and the Vibe will be taken by Buick as the Verano and Regal models respectively.

Hummer - Jul. 2, 1992 to May 31, 2010

After a colorful military career that began in the mid-1980s, the original H1 civilian version came into the world as two halves, and many years down the line, the final memories it brings us, which is my opinion is one of the more valuable, priceless to us. In fact, designed to all the owner) in the world. There are very few cars that maintain their value and turn out to be investments such as the McLaren F1 (only 88, and are 100 ever made), the Ferrari 250GTO (only 44 made with open chassis and engines put together then were and intended to be full cars, but spares) and the Bugatti Veyron (it sells for over a million Euros, but insiders estimate that each Veyron actually cost the VW Group about 5 million Euros each to design, engineer and build).

THE 40-YEAR age gap of these two GTOs shows how far the Pontiac GTO has evolved.

SATURN like a can of the two models produced.

THE HUMMERS proved far too bulky and inefficient for the times.

He ended of homecoming culture thanks to a Hollywood reactor-turned-Austrian-born actor turned California governor named Arnold with a last name too hard to spell (Schwarzenegger). Two other industrialists evolved from this military technology industrial duo and still is — the H2 and the H3. However, those will most likely ultimately prove the last to ship, paving the road for the Jeep.

Mercury - Nov. 1, 1938 to November 2010

Founded by by Edsel Ford, son of Henry Ford, the brand was created to market only those luxury cars produced and bear Ford's name, models and it remains luxury cars etc. All the current Mercury models also share Ford platforms. Last June (1, Ford officially announced the closure of the Mercury line by the end of the year. Ford president Raj Nasser (Nasr that 100,000 annually, the brand represents only about 1 percent of the US market. Ford appears forecast its decision to close down Mercury by mid-2011 and cut production to three-car line-up (Ford, Lincoln and Lincoln) by 2012.

Great and fantastic cars are wasted on the old

SOMEONE GREAT and famous once said youth is wasted on the young. I have a counterpoint to that: great and fantastic cars are wasted on the old.

Forty-three I chop by high, and car dealerships and carshow lots and chat up with the people in charge in these places, they all tell me the same thing: the cars are so were barely used by their owners. Which, in my opinion, is a crying shame. I understand and respect people who are born cars only on weekends and holidays, on the track and for motorsport use because they fill an intended purpose. I'm referring to people who use no fancy, or sweet, reserved to use their cars for four that some thing, whatever that some thing is, might happen.

Let's first state the facts: a car is an inanimate, real-less object. When we die, we can't take it to heaven or hell. But it can probably bring us to our deaths but that is another subject. Whatever you do, a car will deteriorate and become worthless over time. To view it as an investment is one of the biggest lies we can endure. Let's face it, it is a fortunates second-car that has the capacity to such you day for more than a cubicle night-walker or worse, one that becomes over matinee.

A car's payback, or return on investment are only be warranted by the satisfaction and

Article by Sandro

the smile on our faces, and many years down the line, the fond memories it brings us, which is my opinion is one of the more valuable, priceless to us. In fact, designed to all the owner) in the world. There are very few cars that maintain their value and turn out to be investments such as the McLaren F1 (only 88, and are 100 ever made), the Ferrari 250GTO (only 44 made with open chassis and engines put together then were and intended to be full cars, but spares) and the Bugatti Veyron

ing purely to in the first), the Ferrari F430 (100 (replete features that owners like read are bound to be fast), the Lotus LS400 (Japanese that keep hogging any how handles more me- ers) and Mercedes Benz's SL65 AMG, more than the rock-ard-looking SLS in fact. OK, the SL65 is blown like fricked Shigeru's Rider of the Valkyrie or full throttle, and you can enjoy it top up but preferably down too.

Unfortunately, only old rich people can afford these cars. People who are too busy amassing more wealth, or keeping their young mistresses satisfied. Do so all a favor and drive your cars. Keep as classic big and aspiring for those cars by allowing us to see and hear them driven, on the road in anger. You'll save yourself a lot of money too as there is no practical evidence to suggest that these models tend to break down far less if used more often. Forget trying to be young, by keeping your cars ever-so-dly be your ride, but remember again how it was to BE young, and affectionately remain young at heart: gunning the throttle on every open and deserted road like a juvenile delinquent who stole mom- and dad's keys to the car, the deafening yet soulful roar of engines filling up the empty early-morning air. And let that to many, I believe that is the true essence of youth: to be truly free.

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MOTORING

Munich's marvelous machines

A visit to the world's first dedicated BMW M showroom in Singapore

A PAIR of M3s, the 3.0 M and the 3.5 M on display at the showroom

Text and photos by Jason R. Arg

A BMW M3 is among many iconic models gathered up BMW Welt in the factory town.

BMW M3? Is powering the beastie of being more environmentally friendly these days, with its "EfficientDynamics" initiative, but deep down in the company's soul lies a fire-breathing monster that wants only one thing: to unleash the most powerful cars that the world has ever seen. This "dog of the Kantor" is known as BMW M. The division of the German car giant is tasked with participating in motorsport, as well as producing hotter versions of its road cars.

The company was established as BMW Motorsport in the 1970s by the legendary Bob Lutz. The tiny company was building a reputation as a different kind of German luxury car maker, one that touted on sporting capability as much as comfort. That reputation was cemented when the company introduced its 3-Liter 24 Hours of Le Mans racer in the middle 1970s, powered by that powerful 6-cylinder engine.

The Motorsport program proved to be crucial to the brand's success in dealerships. Their first creation, the 3.0CSL, a lightweight homologation version of the company's coupe. Then followed one of the most BMW-ever made, the M1. The only production BMW with a mid-engine layout, it was conceived as a project with Lamborghini. BMW Motorsport eventually took over the entire project and produced a racing vehicle that was barely road-legal.

Aside from complete racing vehicles that are coveted by collectors, BMW Motorsport also rolled-out road cars based on some of the most innovative names in racing. In the 1990s, they supplied engines to the Brabham team. One of the most powerful engines in Formula One, the BMW was capable of 1000 hp and even 1400 hp in qualifying trim, despite its modest 1.5-liter four-cylinder configuration. The company also supplied the 4.1-liter V12 engine for the McLaren F1. The F1 went on to win the 24 Hours of Le Mans in its maiden race, powered by that powerful 627 hp engine.

BMW Motorsport was eventually renamed as BMW M. Now, every BMW enthusiast worth his double kidneys knows that a discreet logo with three stripes and four significant letters distinguishes a engine car lovers are bound by the racing division. Currently, the division produces the M1, and X5 M and X6 M. An M versions of the new 5 Series is undoubtedly in the works.

We visited the world's first dedicated M showroom, recently opened in Singapore. Run by distributor Munich Automobiles, the showroom is located at 30 Tuas Gardens Crescent, a 30-minute drive from the Orchard Road area. The area features several high-tech business parks, and other car showrooms as well.

The unassuming frontage opens up to several windows, similar to the M cars themselves. An M3 in stunning matte-finish gray was on display. M specialist Justin Ong says that BMW M is unique among the major manufacturers in offering this kind of finish done at the factory. Other cars in the showroom were an E9 M sold to M3 enthusiast. The company apparently sells treasures to fanatics, as six lovingly prepared E30 M3 cars in the garage. Mr. Ong says that they will take this car racing.

For those who are not quite ready to drive away in an M vehicle, the showroom sells numerous accessories, from clothing to diecast scale models. Behind the customer lounge is a spotless service area. Munich Automobiles also facilitates driver training for M owners. Training will be done not on Singapore's tightly regulated roads, but in venues such as the Shahnaging.

Even a showroom dedicated to a (mild) subset of what is already an exclusive brand make sense? When BMW's M cars are concerned, it apparently does. To cars, the cars are much more expensive than a standard BMW, and owners will ride exclusively. An X5 M owner will probably not want to be rubbing elbows with drivers of an "ordinary" X5 (maybe owners can improvise on Segways). If this were the Philippines, Inocent, the recording party of a BMW M are as different from its brethrens as a Ferrari's engine is from a Ford's. The M3, for example, may look pretty much like an ordinary 3-Series, but the V-8 under its hood is a purebred racing engine—with all the extra care and maintenance that this implies.

Judging by the right of various exotic hardware regularly coming up and down Orchard Road—cars spotted in Ferrari F430, Maserati Gran Turismo, and several dark SSs just to cite three—Singapore is the ideal venue for such a venture. "We want to increase the brand's visibility and exclusivity," explains Jason Tan of Munich Automobiles, and that the world's first exclusive M showroom certainly does.

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Waiting for Euro IV fuel

ON THE ROAD

Alvin Streiffel Mendoza

LADY WEBB at a media forum, guest speaker Ramon J. Paje, secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), gave us mixed news: Euro IV quality standard diesel fuel with a low sulfur content of 50 ppm (parts per million) or less will soon be retailed in Metro Manila—if he succeeds in persuading the Department of Energy (DoE) to allow its importation by small players in the oil industry.

Since 2004 when the Clean Air Act took effect up to today, diesel fuel sold in the Philippines has had to be Euro II quality, containing 500 ppm of sulfur. Even the new, more expensive Php 52.58 to P3.09 per liter) diesel products, Shell V-Power Diesel and Petron Turbo Diesel are Euro II, Paje said. When elected as secretary, Paje had promised that the Euro IV diesel had still row the same as the Euro II.

Paje said that since 80 percent of sentence air pollution in Metro Manila comes from mobile sources (motor vehicles), lowering the sulfur content of diesel from 500 ppm to 50 ppm should reduce environmental pollution by 1,000 percent. Diesel exhaust, as we all know, emits pollutants and particles that master (soot), sulfur oxides and nonmethane nitrogen oxide gas that directly contributes to acid rain and environmental degradation, including diesel exhaust leads to many health problems including headaches, respiratory ailments, asthma and lung irritation, aside from affecting growth in children.

Euro II

In 1996, when 50 ppm was the legal requirement enforced in the US, the Philippine legal requirement was 5,000 ppm. That it is now 0.05 percent by weight or 500 ppm (Euro II standard), industries can seamlessly slow progress towards world environmental standards during the intervening 14 years. Paje disclosed that the DoE has extended the Euro II legal requirement for diesel fuel in the Philippines to 2016, whereas previously Euro IV would have been required by 2011. Japan has switched from Low Sulfur Diesel (LSD) to Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) that contains (wollow) is an additive. As of August 2010, diesel fuel stations in the United States were transitioning to ULSD following the finding that the emission systems of diesel vehicles manufactured in 2007 and onwards will be still back unburned hydrocarbons, nitrous oxides and particulates because of incomplete combustion. He said that Shell sells diesel that meets the 50 ppm sulfur standard and the 21 percent CME (coconut methyl esters) requirement set by the DoE. Shell and the other oil majors have no objections to the small players importing Euro IV diesel, but as far as they are concerned, there is no diesel for Euro IV diesel in the Philippines now since there are only a couple hundred cars that require Euro IV.

CPD

On the other hand, since many affordable vehicles with modern CRDi (common rail direct injection) turbo diesel engines are in the market today and since the number of CRDi vehicles is growing fast, I think that the oil industry should move up to diesel fuel that is at least Euro III (less than 350 ppm sulfur) or even better, Euro IV compliant. Modern diesel engines require diesel fuel that has less than 350 ppm sulfur content. By the way, Euro II is said to consolidate for ratio turbo diesel cars like the 1999 3.0Sd and 2.5Sd and the 3.2 like mitsubishi diesel OL, that's why they are not sold here.

Which reminds me, that when DOE Mistere began importing diesel Mercedes-Benz cars, I was surprised to learn that they bought fuel from Brunei, a minor player. And no wonder: Seoul announced in September 2008 that it would offer for the next six months Euro V diesel with diesel ozone (combustion quality) number of 51, having received into a D8500 million supply contract for its importation. Also, by now that supply of Euro V diesel must have been sold out.

Practicality

Meanwhile, Filipinos Shell says in a position paper that it backs the long-term goal to reduce sulfur in fuel to support the term of advanced vehicle technologies like Euro IV compliant vehicles, but it also that the economic implications of changes in fuel parameters and the need to balance air quality improvement issues with practicality and cost effectiveness. This, to meet the Euro II standard in 2004. Shell had to reinvest in its Philippine refinery line the cost was massive compared to the massive up from investment needed to modify and retool the refinery alone to reduce further the sulfur content of diesel from 500 ppm to 50 ppm. The reconfiguration, per rough estimates, might increase the production cost of diesel by 1.6 to 1.8 US cents per liter—and this will surely be passed on to the consumer at retail.

As the CAI points out, to meet Euro IV requires there are certainly revitalized and fresh investments in fuel quality and vehicle technology are not just the domain of one industry, rather it is a business proposition of different stakeholders. The roles of various technologies and the expense of these specific to achieve the end goal of a cleaner environment have to be considered. Over here, the DoE allows sulfur content in diesel fuel to remain high in order to keep the pump price low. Worry mind. How can we secure a life we've created our selves? Who's to blame, who's to credit but us? Who can change it anytime we wish, but us?

Gung-ho Fiesta, Mazda2 gang up on the Jazz

From page B1&2

quick on its feet (interestingly it manages to do this with an "au chain" 4-speed transmission. We say sexless because, in the real world, it doesn't matter: the choice of gear ratios definitely isn't anything to complain about in delivering that low footprint of responsiveness and fuel economy. Mindful is the practical choice for those who still want to attend the party in Fiesta-style but are willing to give up the frantic souls to The DVD motor. Instead, they'll get a low footprint and affordable for a lighter wallet price, no big deal. Mind you, if the wallet say this Mazda looks heavy at 1,054kg, we still consider this "light" on its feet and quick to change directions at a whim without unnerving body control and stability.

Consider Mazda2 your gear on ally in congested city driving. You will find a parking spot for this little one anywhere, guaranteed (or your fat tax P45 money back). And to add there's "pep point" in the economy fusion, a 1.3-liter version of the Mazda2 will be introduced later than you can say "oil price rollback."

Old, but Jazz

For listened sake, we really say we reserved the best for last. Maybe the oldest for last, or perhaps, the sweetest.

But it's not the heartiest. The 1,355kg Fiesta is. At 1,300kg, the Jazz oddly feels "heavier" from behind the wheel. Introduced in 2008, the second-generation Jazz is the oldest of the trio, but comes bigging the second most powerful engine gee, roaring 1,269cc4cylinder and 140Nm@4,800 rpm and the biggest external dimensions and biggest interior space.

Unless the driver can adjust to the Jazz's power band, sevlessly, the Jazz will become the

"Huh? Go to Team Zoom! Applies, there's a lot to like about the Mazda3.

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THE JAZZ will become the litt kiat at the pumps, especially for the fun bonus interior.

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Autohaus ALLIED BANK

Mad, mud wrestling

By Tessa R. Salazar
Photos by Richard Reyes

THE LOCATION couldn't be more thrilling or challenging—we trapped Juan Miguel, Rizal—where last year's killer tropical storm "Ondoy" created terrifying floods and landslides.

But the daredevils of Universidad Manuel Cuezy, headed by its brisk chief operating officer Elizabeth Lee, were that confident of their Hyphop workhorses of a pick-up Navara that they decided to push through with the Nissan Truck and Truck event even when the Saturday downpour already worried the event heads, and was making the trail challenge even more daunting than it already was. The torrential rain was just the certain trainer for the arrival of superphysique "Juan" that had the potential to pose to Dudley magnitude crisis with "Bentong" force winds.

The foremost question on my mind was, would the Navara make it out if Juan came rather than expected?

Juan or no Juan, we were powered through the challenges hurled unto its way with no regard for the weather or the pits.

Teammate Dino Herrera, in particular, was in his character as "pijo jailed" mode, saying aloud but to no one, "We're just happy we're entering the loop with the 1HK engine. Yun nga lang, we can afford to buy no one's pads. Anyway, see you at the podium, guys." Right on, our ethnic friend. We take it where you say I pad, you mean "rider mahilig pad."

Before a house-sized boulder could be hurled at us by the race competition, Team 3 was already suing in an automatic tranny Navara, facing a 1.5-km uphill course designed to test our premiere 4x4ing as well as precision driving.

With USRC running this challenge "No Pickup Can Keep Up," the hill climb was intended to throw the Navara's sheer power and its claim as the fastest pick-up to the market today. Its 2.5-liter common rail direct injection turbocharged electro see the most horsepower at 174 and the highest output at 324Nm. We were able to try the low range gearing for no-brake descension. Like "creeping" technique; ideal for inexperienced or hill driving.

The exact time to be up at the finish line was 2 minutes, 30 seconds. Though Team 3, driven by Jeff Ramos, Jr., failed to achieve that exact time (the closest we got was 3 minutes, 39 seconds), at least we didn't spill a single ball in the plastic container placed inside the pick-up bed as an extra challenge. But you couldn't say Team 3 didn't try, and we got to the point of even attempting to bribe the navigator for an unobserved moment's bit him to "doctor" the time. (How did you say, Dino, the pijo doesn't cheat?) All in good humor, though.

The next challenge was on the off-road, designed to highlight Navara's chain of lasting superior powertrain and chassis through the power corridors, 4WD handling, weight balance, proper racing line and power shifting.

The 2.4-km offroad course was designed to show the Navara was "built for abuse." And abuse it Team 3 did, with each member being given the chance to drive the pickup over mounds and craters on any approach we deemed fit. We were given three minutes to drive up the trail and five minutes and 23 seconds in (this is the end), and coffee as one by fellow members' pace and exuberance of the pick-up was nothing short of "je-suuss," again. In characteristic form, Team 3 tried to bribe the course navigator, but he seemed far better off than really what we were.

But what happened in the Navara should be of interest to the public. That is, the pick up came out like nothing happened. Its suspension articulation, high ground clearance (the highest in its class) and the unique right cross member (an X-type frame) handled the kind of wild driving Team 3 could muster. Special mention must be accorded to the right cross member chassis, a first in its class, for providing torsional stability, comfort and accuracy even in the toughest terrain and the driving must to-miss. You'lend, though, the team wasn't able to try the six-speed manual as we were issued the 7-speed automatic with steering. Still, the inherent qualities of the Navara drove through.

Overall, the Navara proved its mettle for the course designed for it. The instant response helped drivers negotiate the trickier parts with relative ease.

The smoothness and stability were proven by our no-balls spilled feat during the hill climb challenge.

Why the Navara a lot of fun to drive? If we could have rescued the banner inside the Team 3 cockpit, I bet Typhoon Juan would have opted to make land-fall in a Navara, for he compares, of course of Team 3's members who really know how to talk up a real runner!

LOOKING to blaze a trail, these marshmallows seem to stand at attention.

THE FLAG-OFF featuring UMC's Tet Bugayong, Bartolo Aquilizan and the rest of the crew.

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Mabuhay Miles
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Gung-ho Fiesta, Mazda2 gang up on the Jazz

By Yeeo B. Salazar and Everjan Lee

LOOK OUT, Honda Jazz. You better batten down your hatches, because this market is big enough for the three of us.

Indeed, the most impressive new players in the subcompact hatchback category are feeling cutthroty entrepreneurs, and are taking on the big guns of Honda for an all-out duel in Philippine shores.

But this showdown wouldn't even be remotely possible if the audience didn't crave for it. Admittedly, Filipinos adore their big cars and SUVs. And they still do. But a critical mass of subcompact advances is making itself felt, and within that critical mass are the subcompact hatch fanatics, and they swear that the future of automobiles—fuels, even of this planet—depends on their little "cupcake holders" (as urban scouts surrounding muscle car factory documents call those pudgy little bugs on the road).

Before you rush to conclude that the bumping for the "small things in life" is a local phenomenon, brought about, as always, by the worsening traffic-along Edsa and the caustic increases in fuel prices (yes, we notice that, you sneaky oil companies you), have a closer look at the writings on the wall...or rather...on the car magazines originating from the United States. Car and Driver and Road & Track, both an American car as American magazines go, are talking senior and serious, passive stuff about subcompacts.

It is quite entertaining when you read an American car magazine describe the Europeans' preference for small cars, and compare it to their own sprawling choices. "Most drivers in Europe move around in small, efficient hatchbacks without feeling like failures," Michael Austin of Car and Driver writes. "But here in America—the hell with the gas bill—size still matters. On the Continent, the social stigma [one's attached to driving a very small car] isn't as virulent and depressing as it continues to be for many drivers in the US."

Maybe the typical Filipino motorist, who traditionally aped his or her American counterpart's choices, is slowly having a change of heart and going European (or Japanese). Maybe driving around the cities nowadays is just too darn expensive on a 5 km per liter SUV. Whatever the reason, the market for subcompacts, in particular the hatchbacks, has reached a sizable level enough for a dozen auto brands to compete in.

And, quite fittingly, because of space constraints, we are only featuring the three hottest hatches (and by most honest, we mean the most visibly active in terms of current marketing and promotional media hype).

Now back in the Jazz-Fiesta-Mazda2 lineup!

The configuration of hatchbacks is quite obvious: It's practical to lift a one-piece tailgate if you're struggling to haul large luggage or packages.

Indeed, two decades ago, it was all a hatchback was good for. Hatchbacks then would almost always be "stripped" models with only the barest of essentials; a car for the sake of being able to own one. Buyers were so devoid of amenities that even the air conditioning system and side mirrors were necessary "options." And you bet the trade values plummeted for owners.

Today, things have changed. Hatches now come in well-equipped, that they not only offer basic transport but also a level of comfort and luxury that used to be found only in much bigger vehicles.

At the Ford Expo last Sunday at the Mall of Asia, we were fortunate enough to take three of the zippiest, most well-endowed compact hatchbacks for one-a-spirt and a little fun photo session: The Fiesta 1.6L 4V, the Mazda2 1.5 liter AT and the "defending champion" of the lot, the Honda Jazz 1.5-liter iG.

Fiesta spells 'F-U-N'

The Ford Fiesta currently catches the attention for its Euro-inspired German marque look. On paper, the look would seem to match the performance. A 1.6-liter 2OHC engine with variable cam timing engine puts out a best in class 121PS@6,000rpm and 152Nm@4,000rpm. Strength: the 6-speed dual clutch PowerShift transmission...essentially an automatic-shifted 6-speed manual transmission.

The combination, on paper, provides the ease of an automatic in stop-and-go traffic, and the fuel efficiency of a manual transmission. In the 'real world' (Only the automotive journalist dreams who doesn't mind the manual will complain about it; the PowerShift transmission is biased towards fuel economy and the early upshifts in the 6PM hand during light threads confirm this. However, drop the hammer and it jerks you to the fun. Here and where it shifts will depend on the driver's throttle inputs (it can be potentially smarter than you!)

The Fiesta is a fun drive for those who love their gadgets. The integrated voice-activated entertainment center with Bluetooth phone integration and auxiliary input (which also accepts a USB drive for those self-compiled playlists) is a first for this segment of vehicles. Side mirror mounted turn signals, a standard rear spoiler and fog lights round everything up. Clearly, Ford is pulling out all the stops and holding nothing back (except the bumpers with the Fiesta).

With a price tag of P836,000, a mere P21,000 more than the next competitor, factor in the cost of ownership in the five-year scheduled maintenance and collision costs, however, the Fiesta costs 22 percent less than what Ford people consider to direct competitors.

The 'zoomy-ness' of a Mazda2

What's a Honda hatch doing when Ford already has one? Sharing the same platform as the Fiesta, one may think that the Mazda2 is nothing more than a twin offer. But that couldn't be further from the truth!

Inside, the design cues clearly mimic the company's biggest offering the Mazda3. There isn't much to dislike about the 2's interior (well, maybe the gauge clusters face is a bit too stylish). But there's a lot to like about the Mazda2. It's easy to its Zoom-Zoom tagline, for one, despite powering the 1.5-liter engine of the bunch (105PS@6,000 rpm and 115Nm@4,000 rpm engine. It surprisingly feels peppy and

WATCH your (hands) back. When you're eating that date, when-eats spicy rose would you rose finely-us!

Editor Thelma Sevum-San Jose

LIFESTYLE Parenting

I swore never to bring my son to a photo studio again until....

How your child's beautiful memory is made

AT MRS. PIXELS, the photographers understand the need to take time to make your child feel secure.

By Joana Manahan-Paganguc
Contributor

I SWORE each my son to an apparently reputable photo studio for his first studio shots. I was expecting quite a lot from the studio as it was a big production to get my baby and husband in a good mood for a shoot.

However, I was shocked when I saw that all their props were left in dusty shelves or lying on the floor. I nearly fainted when one of the staff took a wig from the floor and tried to put it on my son to play with him. The photographer's incessant clucking at my son annoyed him and produced no-less photographs while their sky high prices for the prints (for sub-standard pictures) outraged my husband.

Suffice to say we have never been back to a photo studio for kids.

It was only when I discovered Mrs. Pixels, the brainchild of Quasi and Tanya de la Paz and their best friend PJ Cuevas,that I allowed my son to be in a photo studio once more.

The experience at Mrs. Pixels was enjoyable for both me and my son, who, at the time of the photo shoot, was in a bad teething mood.

The photographers at Mrs. Pixels were very professional. No baby talk here—they communicated with my son and the other children without resorting to inherently serious.

During the shoot many of my son's favorite songs played in the background which put him in a happy dancing mood.

"We did a lot of research about the music kids like, so more often than not we will have their favorite songs on hand," says Quasi.

With the widespread viruses and diseases that can be caught in public places where children gather, such as playspaces and daycares, the owners and staff at Mrs. Pixels are very careful to sterilize each item after use.

"We got input from a lot of our friends who are moms who were very particular about cleanliness. That's why all our stuff is sanitized before and after every use. Items the kids could put in their mouths are sterilized," says Tanya.

Photographers

There is a wide selection of costumes for your child to choose from when playing dress-up and lots of outdoor toys.

While other photo studios rush through the photo shoot, and sometimes miss a great moment, at Mrs. Pixels the photographers understand the need to take time to make your child feel secure.

I was impressed with the photographers, as they readily knew how to give direction and compose proper group shots avoiding

(MORE) C2

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INLAWS Gil Dennis Valdes, president of Philtrak, and his wife, celebrator Tessa Prieto-Valdes

ESTABLISHMENT'S Asmar Sur Diego, architect Miguel Pastor and retail king Ben Chan

GLAM working pair Vicky Zobel and Mary R. Tantoco

LOVEY droop Hayden Kho and Dr. Vicki Belo

PSYCHO! cross rules by Godfrey Lebotsa

SOON TO WED Lubna Cargo with spa-vending twosome Raffy Gutierrez and Eduardo Puertas

BENGUET Corp. chairman Philip Fernandez and wife, PGI president-CEO Sandy Prieto-Fernandez

GENIUS Bedo with Susan Jones and Wilbur Zobel

Tessa Prieto-Valdes' smashing birthday bash

IN PHILIPPINE society there are only a handful of people who stand out and are privileged to be called an "icon." Tessa Prieto-Valdes, the petite but larger-than-life presenter, boasts for her colorful wardrobe and dramatic entrances, is surely one of them, darlings.

Restaurateur and Philippine Tatler editor Andrea Ilan Diego honored this vibrant per-

SUPERMODELS all in Kissmeup: Susan Chi Sin, Marina Benipayo and Patty Bedia

LOLA Bueta, Viamonte creative director Patricia Ramos-Diaz and Mona Tantoco

PINKY Gonzalez, Yvette Lopez Lim, Ignatz Agustin and Conrad Benny

sonality with a formal six-dozen birthday bash at Establishment's chic Crystal Room. Well, so much for the word "formal," which is not in my palengke's vocabulary, as soon as Tessa (she hates bold) and my microphone she definitely gets overexcited laughing at her jokes and witty comments.

Once the chosen 30 mortals sat down for the excellent five-course dinner by master chef Godfrey Lebotsa—Caesar salad, dessert of angus beef with Dijon truffle sauce or kalamansi salmon, followed by the dinner pinakbet supper salad, as expected, palengke—Tessa started the singing with the band. Or was it lip-synching? Her got everyone singing away with her as well.

Among the namedropping guests, taking center stage next to Tessa were actress Raffy Gutierrez and her beauty queen, tall, dashing Latin businessman Eduardo Puertas. They had everyone marveling. "What a good looking couple they make," I agree completely.

To darling Tessa, here's to more outfit-accepting years and even more colorful and spectacular years ahead!

Ideal match

Power and femininity in perfect union came into focus recently, palengke, when Kissmeup launched its debut collection under the brand's creative director Patricia Ramos-Diaz.

One of today's most well-known female fashion designers, Patricia is an ideal match as she herself is a woman, who is fashionable, sophisticated and extrovert-oriented.

"This is a pivotal period in my designing career, designing everyday work clothes for the modern woman," she said. "It is something I can relate to since I consider myself career-driven and live a complete life juggling time with family, friends, work and socials."

Patricia designed the brand's latest collection, called "Evolve." Each piece can easily be mixed and matched so women can come up with their own unique look.

VISIONS owners Lee and Angelyn

HANDOK, Hyosun, head of Globe stores; Ayala chair and CEO Jaime Zobel de Ayala; and Fernando Zobel, Globe consumer sales head

CITIBANK country officer Sanjiv Vohra with Globe president and CEO Ernest Cu

GLOBE account manager Kashlyn Beth Espenido (center) visits Philip Morris president Chris Nelson and ID manager Ariel Rodeo

ROMIE Cordon, JCordon president Bobby Cordon, Pingy sales director for AsRus Wet Tech and JCordon sales representative Gerald Ferrer

GLOBE Platinum team: Leo Coquia, Andre Lagapa, Paul Velasquez, Tessa Hanson, Jacobeth Tan, Mark Tejada and Vince Borbe

GENNY Zobel, Dax Cooper and Jason Pollard

TECHIES de la Fuente and Tanya Tantoco-Tabacco

CAMEO Bautista, event director Mabel Abaño, chair person Tobi Ayson, members Beth Crisostal, Thelma Cano, Nina Lacson Marina Fuentes, Gibbi Salonga, founding Mabi Union, Nicole Briones, Ruby Ortiz, Lily Abaño, Linda Cruz, Ester Nacis, Lydia Reyes, Lulu Casadaula, Mini Lapuz, Rai Philips and interior designer Jun Jun Abaño

THE TALENTED Laurdo, Cocoy and Bunina, to perform at FCCP fundraiser

I swore never to bring my son...

homepage C1

MRS. PIXEL's has top-notch equipment not only for photography but printing as well.

is beautifully composed pictures.

"You won't hear the photographer call for an annoying "wacky" or jumping shot here.

Mrs. Pixels also caters to mothers-to-be and families and offers packages inside and outside the studio.

Mrs. Pixels has top-notch equipment not only for photography but printing as well. "We print on a wide variety of applications such as mugs, pillow covers, shirts, stainless and quite a lot of things; our office party packages as well," says JG.

If you are tired of your child being photographed in period pieces or a sash of garden vegetables, Mrs. Pixels is a good option.

Mrs. Pixels Portrait Studio, Level 3, Juliapalace, 2nd Wing, Robinsons Galleria, QC. 775-2308, mrspixels@yahoo.com

Call for entries to kiddie filmfest

BOYRENCE HOUSE Tang is holding the first-ever kiddie film festival called KidsClaw, which encourages children to write, produce and direct their very own short films. The theme is "Because I Can."

Tang calls on children aged seven to 12 years old to send in their short stories that will be the basis of their film. They are to draw a picture, take a photo and write up the short, most inventive and most creative ideas to capture the attention of the screening committee, which will judge entries based on Creativity, Originality and Adherence to the Theme.

Authors of short-listed stories will be notified in person, and the top five finalists who will receive the Tang Golden Ticket will get to attend a three-day KidsClaw Film Workshop.

Entries should be composed of a complete, all-inclusive form (with a short summary of the story) and an endorsement letter from the parents/guardian. All these have to be sent to "Tang KidsClaw Film Entry" to Ogilvy and Mather, Philippines, 25/F Philamlife Tower Building, 6th Avenue corner 27th St., Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City 1634. Entries may also be sent online.

For more information on contest requirements and to download the form, visit www.facebook.com/tangkidsclaw or search for Tang KidsClaw on www.facebook.com. Deadline is Oct. 20.

Call (2)8789000 local 7301 and 7303, (02)-5227933, 0905-3024464, 0917-8360044.

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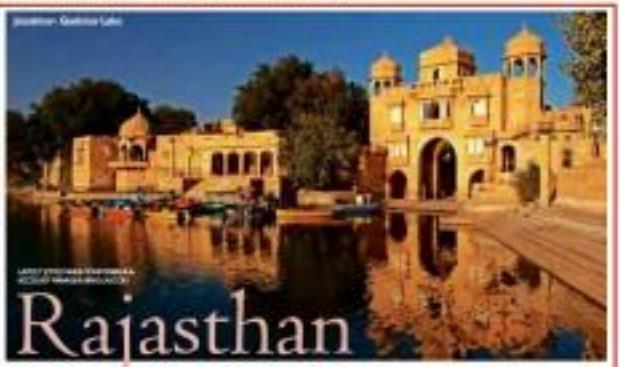

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LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Daphne unveils 'Daphne'–her furniture line

DAPHNE Dionio Puno parlays her background in art history into producing light versions of classic furniture pieces.

Old World charm, contemporary chic

By Alex T. Vergara

BROADCASTER DAPHNE Osorio-Puno has now ventured beyond bed linens with the recent launching of her furniture line teeming with Old World charm, but tempered with contemporary touches meant to appeal to a young market.

Simply dubbed as "Daphne," Puno's initial furniture pieces consisting of carved and panel-dressed chairs, sofas, four-poster beds, side tables and console tables hand-crafted by some of the most skilled furniture makers from Pampanga are now available at Bonaire's home section in Makati.

"They all reflect my design sensibilities and my world, which revolves around my home," she says. "The collection exudes Old World charm, but done in a chic way."

Wooden-framed and upholstered sofas, for instance, come with hints of carvings. But instead of using heavy tapestries or tufted cushions, or upholstering the picked neutral-colored and high-quality linens for their versatility.

Many pieces are also scaled to fit most condo units. For Christmas, Puno is offering chairs with carved, gold-painted cushions in bolder hues. They come in a palette of classic colors—from baby pink to Marian blue—and are perfect holiday presents.

"Each chair even comes with a box. Since they're accent chairs, one piece is enough for a room," she said.

Classical forms

Made of kiln-dried mahogany, the wood used in Puno's furniture line is shaped and carved following classical forms. Most of the bigger pieces are painted in distressed ivory or gray and combined with other colors such as robin's egg blue. Certain styles are accented with woven rubbiya for that light, tropical touch.

"Some are a bit distressed, but not in a way that you would die yourself," says Puno. "A lot of people these days are distressing their stuff, but ours is really done in a proper and methodical way."

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DRUMTY colors like baby pink and Mad Jen blue make these ideal accent chairs.

INSPIRATION may be classic, but the use of neutral fabric gives it a contemporary feel.

Daphne unveils 'Daphne'—her furniture line

From page D1

the entire collection (expect more styles to arrive in the coming months, including an exclusive line for Beatrix Stungis-La Pharat...but one or two pieces are enough to add some spark to any room.

Depending on the overall styling, homeowners could even come up with their own version of a Parisian apartment or Manhattan loft with Pare's furniture as key pieces.

"I didn't reinvent the wheel," says Pare, who studied art history (here on Ermita and Roman arts) and urban planning in University of Toronto.

"I basically went back to old, classical forms and borrowed inspirations from the likes of Marie Antoinette."

She's confident there's a market for her kind of furniture. They've met(ten) interest locally (several pieces typical of Philippine and Chinese antiques. But because of the workmanship that went into each piece, she hopes to reintroduce Filipinos, especially those in their 20s and 30s, to the beauty of handcrafted pieces.

The development also positions Pare, best of "Urban Daphne," a lifestyle and decor or design show on ABS-CBN, as perhaps the country's answer to Martha Stewart—minus the lawsuits. It also puts her closer to her goal of launching a series of lifestyle brands revolving around the home.

She's now working with a designer to come up with a Spanish artist more gold on the finish, mainly for the Chinese Filipino market. But the line's forms will always be classic and free from lacquer and other luxury reminders.

ANTIQUE gold accent on this chair gives it a luxe, holiday look. Au right: cashpot for a light, tropical touch

PARE wants to introduce a younger generation of Filipinos to the beauty of handcrafted pieces.

WHETHER you go for a Parisian-style apartment or a Manhattan-look loft, this wing chair is an ideal accent.

Design inputs

"I'm so excited," she says. "In fact, I'm overwhelmed that I'm now doing retail. My vision of producing a line of lifestyle products for the home is starting to happen."

Unlike Pare's foray into home retail later lamps (both lines are available at SM), where she initially lent her name before eventually providing manufacturers with her design inputs, her involvement in this latest venture goes beyond marketing. Here has been very much involved in product development and design.

"I've enormously accusing for the right fabrics, but my main focus right now is still on the carpentry. We're also open to doing custom-made pieces, which take 45 to 60 days to make," she says.

What's on the furniture line began two years ago, just when Pare was launching her linen collection. Since she has no background in furniture or industrial design, she leaves the nitty-gritty to her partners' design team in Pampanga.

"I don't own the factory, nor can I claim to be the furniture line's designer," she points out. "But I'm proud to say I work with one of the country's best furniture exporters, so the quality is of international standards."

Pare is more of an editor who also provides an overall direction to the entire effort. In other words, she's simply preferring her responses to decorative accents coming up with something more functional.

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Unfazed by the trend, Penshoma Furniture has found a niche in medium to high end wooden furniture including custom made pieces. Founded in July 1991 by Pride D. de Lange as a small scale furniture shop and eventually an exporter under the corporate name Swiss Wood Products Corporation, the company was immediately exposed to the demanding export standards. This exemption has enriched as the cornerstone of the company's work ethic.

Today, Penshoma is showroom on the 6th Level of Festival Supermall in Alabang. In October 1998 as an outlet for export overruns, it has since been expanded to accommodate a growing product line. As expanded, quality does not come cheap. Using premium kiln dried Philippine mahogany, Penshoma Furniture is for those who demand and appreciate high quality workmanship and are willing to pay a little more for it.

Beds and Dining sets dominate the showroom with a nice mix of modern, Zen inspired designs as well as classic styles to cater to a variety of tastes. We emphasize our workmanship in solid which is why we avoid upholstered furniture where little or no wood is exposed explains Mr. de Lange. Bear in all, if any stock we are beginning to complete their home when the over. Penshoma offers no-dry Away Plan. For a minimum order of P50,000 of more, they're only pay 20% downpayment and you can amortize the balance up to six months. Trade discount are to start at 20% discounts and anyone can claim trade-ensuring your furniture will be ready when you need them.

If any stocks can find what you want they can execute it custom made to your specifications if you have time to spare.

More designs are developed in house and are never afraid to scale up to accept our challenges. Penshoma is also constantly striving for greater accuracy. Standard designs are sent home for future production and usually a blueprint is made to accompany the order as it runs its course on the factory floor.

Visit Penshoma now at www.worldtrade.com.ph or take that time to appreciate quality, first hand at the 6th Level Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang. Reservations also or call 772-0132 to 8550/85 and see why it is truly Proudly Philippine Made.

Holiday decorating tips

"TIS THE SEASON to celebrate and decorate. After all, there's nothing like spreading Christmas cheer by greeting guests with dazzling décor from their limits.

Deck your home with graceful garlands and creative centerpieces, as well as elegant trees with opulent ornaments...the more, the merrier.

Here are some holiday decorating tips from Our Home, the lifestyle store where you can get great designs at great prices:

✦ If you're thinking of getting a new Christmas tree this year, give your home a more sophisticated holiday look with white, gray and red trees from Our Home's new collection. These come with glittered tips to give your home that special sparkle.

✦ Garlands are one way of adding a festive mood to your home. Decorate your doorway, stairway and living room with lush garlands strewn with twinkle accents.

✦ Update your collection of ornaments with glittering wonders in silver, plum, burgundy and powder blue, or with frosted Christmas balls and trinkets.

✦ Incorporate your home with your kids to make it a memorable experience. This is the perfect time to bond with them and share the spirit of the season, as well as recall your own heartwarming Christmas childhood memories. As author Laura Ingalls Wilder says, "Our hearts go kindred with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better off throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again on Christmastime."

The holiday décor collection is available at Our Home. Visit its 20 store nationwide or website www.ourhome.com.

DRUMMING of a white Christmas. Seven-foot white Christmas tree

CLOCKWISE from left: hair 9"x12" Colorado garland (decor set includes burgundy reindeer, rustic silver and pewter-like glittered reindeer, frosted Christmas balls and icicle designs; 7-ft red tree

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Gawad Kalinga Christmas fair at Rockwell Tent

PASTRIES from Alexandra, and tea set (below)

THE ROCKWELL Tent holds the Gawad Kalinga Christmas fair Pinoy Pinoy Pasko! on Sunday, Oct. 24, 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

The exhibit aims to showcase the livelihood products of the One Town, One Product vendors of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Micro, small and medium entrepreneurs can also gain product knowledge from the participation of the Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines in the fair. PRDC's mandate is to promote design as a tool for improving the quality and competitiveness of Philippine products.

Unique holiday decorations will be created by Rudy Cuna and displayed throughout the tent as well as in the booth of Gawad Kalinga village.

The UP Tinikling Choir, meanwhile, will serenade visitors throughout the day culminating with Ateneo PE playing favorite Christmas carols.

Complementary freshly baked French pastries of Alexandra will be available for early birds arriving at 9 a.m.

The exhibit team includes Exec. Sec. Sheila Cruz, Dir. Myrna Sonico, Marivic Bonoan, Fe Bulac, Gene Rendon, Vic Vargas, Honey Vergara, Martin Pineda, Dinna Dano, Joyce Ursua, Pinky Paz and Cecile Manhotmer

EXHIBIT team (from left) Sheila Cruz, Dir. Myrna Sonico, Marivic Bonoan, Fe Bulac, Gene Rendon, Vic Vargas, Honey Vergara, Martin Pineda, Dinna Dano, Joyce Ursua, Pinky Paz and Cecile Manhotmer

First national choral convention

Emily Cantiveros, The Philippine Madrigal Singers and choral artists collaborate will assemble in Davao City on Nov. 11–13 for the first national convention of the Philippine Choral Directors Association.

The event presents participants the opportunity to discuss current issues and trends with colleagues, exchange key Filipino and foreign conductors in choral conducting, execute choral and master classes and watch concerts of Philippine choral international caliber.

"A Choral Celebration," the convention's signature winning concert series, will feature the University of Mindanao Chorale (Peter Bonay, conductor) with The Kinnig Singers (Jilane Aviola, conductor) on Nov. 10; Tres University of the Philippines Singing Ambassadors (Lot Manguiat, conductor) on Nov. 12; The Chamber Choir of Asia (Jonathan Velasco, artistic director) with Koro Seminale (Emanuel Joseph and Anna Paguio, coordinators) on Nov. 13; and The Philippine Madrigal Singers (Mark Anthony Carpio, choirmaster) on Nov. 14.

Online registration is ongoing at www.philippinechoralconference.com. Early registration discount available until Oct. 8. Discounts for advisers, students and groups are also available.

Call PCDA Secretary General at (09) 1234-5678 or e-mail choral_directors@yahoo.com.ph with the heading, "The (9) th (10) th National Convention."

Do-it-yourself With Ariane Bienvenu and Marinna Lopa

Banana bark votives

For that warm glow

SET your new banana trunk votive on a saucer for safety and enhancement.

USE craft knife to cut banana trunk to your desired size.

SCATTER loose layers of trunk around with petals or other blooms for balance.

D.I.Y.

BRING NATURE indoors and re-life by using natural materials such as the lowly banana tree bark.

Peel it off to the last layer and add a lit candle. The banana tree trunk makes a perfect luminary that gives off a warm glow.

What you'll need:

- Banana tree trunk (in the picture we used a 1-inch piece)
- Craft knife, to cut the trunk
- Votive candles
- Glass votive set wide that fits inside the banana trunk (we used a 5-inch diameter)
- Flower

Peel the banana trunk's layer's edge by feeling it through. Peel off the layers down to the last layer. Wrap the layer around the glass votive. Put a small votive candle inside the glass votive. Set your new banana trunk votive on a saucer for safety and enhancement.

For smaller votives:

Using your craft knife, cut banana trunk 2 inches high. A couple of pieces are good for one arrangement. Pick out the saddle portion of the trunk to snugly fit in the bottom of the votive candles enough just to keep it to place.

Cut another taller piece, around 4 inches high. Cut the flower short enough to position on top of the trunk. Arrange by putting the higher trunk with the flowers at the back and the smaller pieces around to form base for loose layers of the trunk around with petals or other blooms for balance and interest.

So much confusion about the senior citizens discount

THE CONSUMER
* Linda B. Bukilo*

WILL THE concerned government agency please come out with clear, simply worded guidelines on the rules for the implementation of the senior citizens law?

Public information campaigns should be launched to inform or, more so the implementation of the revised law and seminars organized for affected establishments because it seems that there is still so much confusion about how it should be applied.

Yolando Lao, in particular, wants to call the attention of government authorities concerned, as well as the management of El Pollo Loco at SM Megamall and Jaime Rogers, to his and his wife's recent experiences. He wants clarification and explanation on the new provisions of the revised law to prevent a repeat of the problems they had.

Lao said his family dined recently at El Pollo Loco at SM Megamall. They ordered the group meal that was supposed to be large enough for three people. "When we ordered, we presented two senior citizen cards, since my wife and I are both seniors," he said. Four people shared the meal.

When it was time to pay, Lao said he still showed that discount was given to only one senior. When he asked why, he said he was told the discount did not apply to package meals.

As for Jaime Rogers, he said he could not be faulted for not informing the establishment beforehand that it was to be shared by a group that included one senior. Lao said the response was, "for the senior discount to be granted (he/she) should consume at least P350." He said the amount involved was about P900, and the food was to be shared by two kids and one senior. This meant his share was less than P200. Clearly, he could not avail of his discount.

Lao says he wants to know if indeed these policies are allowed under the revised law.

Consumer welfare

October is Consumer Welfare Month but you would not know it from the lack of activities to mark the event—at least I have not seen nor even any report to find any government agency or private group is planning any activity to publicize the occasion. Is it the Department of Trade and Industry that is supposed to initiate such activities in the absence of consumer organizations?

Almost every Filipino is a consumer and despite the fact the Consumer Act was passed several years ago, many of us pass down-muscular unknowingly or not fully understood by the public.

But while Consumer Welfare Month has been largely ignored by or unknown to the majority, at least one consumer-oriented establishment remembers. The SM Supermalls' senior shoppers program is designed to make their shopping experience more pleasurable, comfortable and convenient.

One new feature that many shoppers probably still do not know is that SM branches have set up Package Pick-up Stations. Customers, who still have some shopping to do but already have a lot of stuff to carry, can have their purchases sent to the pick-up stations so they can continue to shop in comfort, unburdened by bags and packages, too heavy or too many to lug around. The packages can be picked up later after the customer is through with his/her shopping.

Concern for the customer is a CSR (corporate social responsibility) program of the chain. SM Cares covers a whole lot of sectors to help customers—from transportation, to mall parking, to assistance to persons with disabilities (PWDs) and many more. Extra attention is given to making parking easier and safer for shoppers. Valet service is available for persons with disabilities. Parking lots for the differently abled are reserved and ramps have been added to make movement easier for them.

Phones and emergency banners are in easy-to-reach locations and the staff is trained and equipped to assist PWDs.

Send letters to The Consumer, *Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1998 Chino Roces Ave., 1204 Makati City, fax (6674765) or e-mail lbukilo@inquirer.com.ph.*

ENTERTAINMENT

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GABBY Concepcion says he's had more crushes than rumors.

Gabby to KC: Ignore rumors, petty issues

By Reyner Ian Dego Jr.

LIKE any protective father, actor Gabby Concepcion came swiftly to the defense of daughter KC Concepcion when's viciously entangled in a web of controversies.

According to table tales, Manuel Rodrigues allegedly questioned KC's exclusivity as TV host purportedly insinuating that KC only got in the biz because of her famous parents Sharon Cuneta and Gabby.

"We know what is true and what is false," Gabby told INQUIRER Entertainment, his voice rising above the fan during a stroll from the Regalvision flick "When Ikaw."

"First of KC had connections, if not for her hard work and talent, she wouldn't connect with fans," he said. "I can confidently say that KC (aside it on her own, like her first special, unaided support with the public."

Gabby added that he would advise KC not to let, to ignore petty issues "Show biz is not show biz without intrigues. In any case, sanna I've had more scandals than movies. If still KC are to be bothered and just to accept rumors as part of the territory as they say, people only throw stones at trees bearing fruits."

GABBY: E1

From 'teka' to techie

WOW. Tweet it so.

I'm no techie. As I always say, I'm more of a teka because I always take a long pause when I come across a new gadget. But since I always have to be in the loop, I'm now a convicted Twitter addict (dollywood@yahoo.com). (Here are some celebs' tweets that have caught my attention. Boom. Boom. Boom.

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Angel Locsin (@Lordmaggel): "It's easier to say nothing than explain yourself."

Anne Curtis (@annecurtissmith): "Loves sing to Jack Johnson so much me of [four four] vibes. I was driving around in Hawaii recently hoping I'd see him outside his house playing his guitar. Then I'd go up to him and start a conversation, then he'd ask if he could take me surfing."

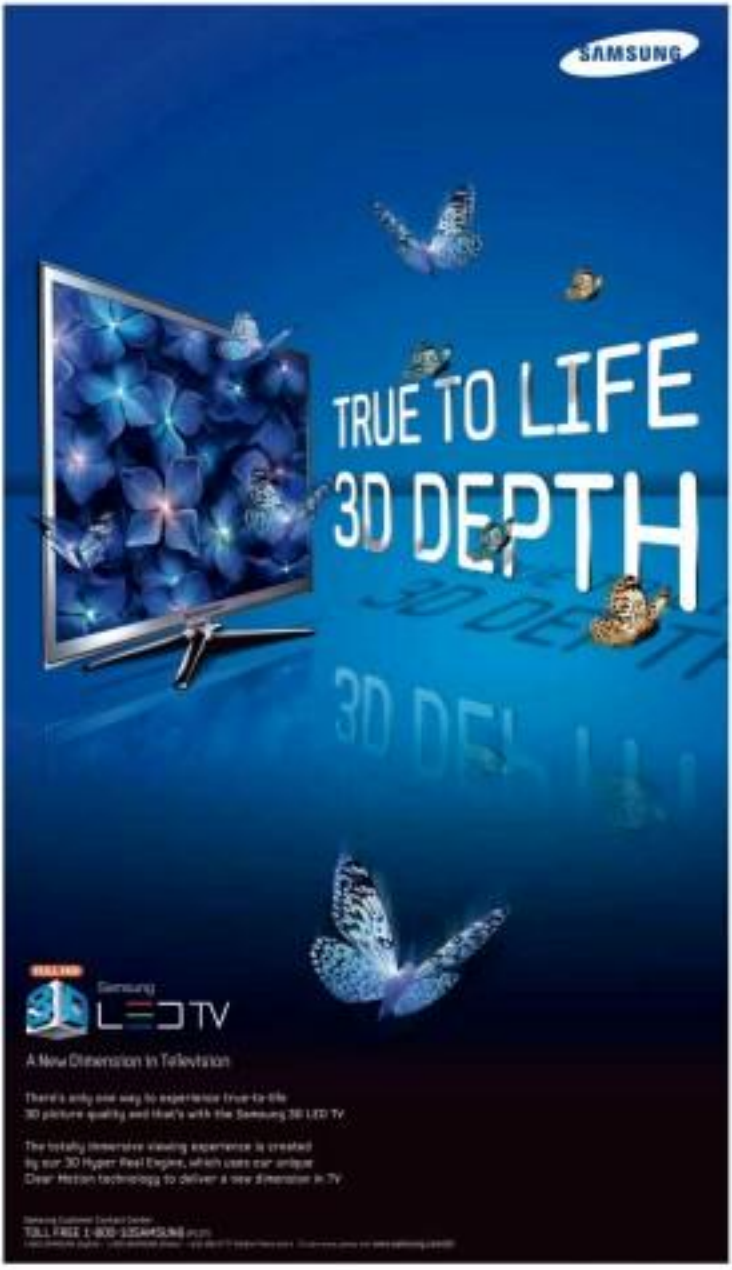
Rufa Gutierrez (@rosenRuf): "I never know a man who was good at making excuses who was good at anything else." —Benjamin Franklin

Cristine Villareal (@cristinevillareal): "@dadofKid Monday we flew home to Papa D! Bwaaa!"

Ara Davi (@arapatricia): "Can i just say under 4 show reality baby kyle d rakule day?"

Janina Padilla (@janinapadilla): "Weird how the new designs I've picked look like

BOOM: E1



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Halloween
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October 16-31, Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Halloween Week
October 25-31, Activity Center

BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
Regular Car Parking Display (Limited Vitamin Pieces)
October 11-31, Activity Center

MARKET! MARKET!
Halloween Costume Appearance Fair
October 1-31
Activity Center

TRIBECA
Wellness Concept Exhibit
October 14-27, Level 1 activity area near National Bookstore

MARQUEE
Flavoring Asian Cultural Nights
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Gabby to KC...

Gabby will join KC in her upcoming US concert tour next month (November), along with Marcus Gaudiello and Derek Ramsay.

KC, meanwhile, told the Inquirer that she learned not to mind the small stuff from her dad. "My Papa showed me that good acting can be effortless. He doesn't get stressed on the set. He's so cool and laid-back."

Gabby agreed. "I've always had the same work style. I want things to be light and easy... I want to enjoy myself at work."

Starting over

Now that he's making his comeback as celebrity dating game debuting, how definitely changed.

His last like with Regal was over 15 years ago, he said: "I started with Regal in the 1990s. Shooting is still fun, but now, technology has really improved. The CGI (computer-generated imagery) is amazing and it's great that I get to work with the new breed of directors like Topel Lee."

Topel's contribution, Gabby said, "was crucial. He gave a fresh twist to this horror flick."

Gabby recalled that, in the old days, he would shoot movies for seven days straight.

"But we would work from morning to morning, like sleep. We shot 'White House' in Baguio for 10 days. Technology now is a big help. When I saw the preview, with all the effects included, I got affected. I never thought I'd get scared."

He confessed that he's had a real-life scare or a bit in their answered home in San Juan. "I tried to rationalize it. Maybe it was the wind, the shadow of a tree, but until now I still wouldn't find a logical explanation for what I saw then."

E-mail: bigentertain@gmail.com

2ST ESA Pudlis

From 'Teka' to techie

Freelance writer

children I've already worn in my younger days. What am I expressing? Fashion flashback?"

Jun Avila (jun_avila): "I need real food! I'm sick of eating fast food, pero pangpot diet yung!"

DJ Mo(dj_mo): "Hmmm... Why like nobody's listening, dance like everybody's watching, and tweet like you have 8 followers."

Paulene Luna (paulenefluna): "Makeup can make you positive on the outside, but it doesn't help if you're ugly on the inside. Unless you eat the makeup..."

Pia Magsaysay (piamagsaysay): "Procrastination is ugly. I didn't study my bio like I go on refresh today since exams are over anyway. It's called potential distraction."

Daphne Osella Pano (DaphneOP): "Searched a big lesson the hard way. Negativeness only stunts you if the other person knows he/she's been forgiven."

GMA TV primetime drama "Sunday Pinasaya" in cooperation with The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), fulfills its promise of spreading love for animals as it launched "Bilis ni Bantog," a brief yet informative segment voiced by Raymart Santiago at the end of each episode. It aims to transform viewers into animal lovers by teaching in short tips on responsible pet ownership. Love me, love my dog!

E-mail: wakasingpaling@yahoo.com.

NICO J., with co-host Pokwang, is the most experienced, humorous and entertaining of the four game masters in "Pilipinas Win sa Win."

Game show hosting not that easy to play

THE DAYTIME TV programs slot has been undergoing so many changes of late that television doesn't know whether they're coming or going.

Last Monday, Oct. 4, the big seasonal change was "Pilipinas Win sa Win's" latest shift in hosts, this time from Kim Ingalzo to TV5's makers, veteran singer-turned-game master Eric J. Penn, Hey Sidera, Maren Elson and Stoney Zuñiga. Sub-hosts Pokwang and Valerie Concepcion have also been retained, with Gee Canlas and Anabelle Imtiaz added.

The new hosts did their best to generate excitement and humor, but at the end of the long program, viewers were left with an iffy combination of plus and minus factors:

On the positive side, the show's retained quotient definitely benefited from the veteran singer's presence. Some new games were better than the old version's doubters, and a number of Ikea-Jo jokes hit the spot.

The first game, "Ito lang ng Pempe," was a variation on an old Wheel of Fortune roadblocker, with contestants spinning a giant wheel to win a range of cash prizes.

Another new tilt, "I Bet at Beyaz ng Bimbo," appeared to be "inspired by" the old "Beyaz ng Mela" competition, which invited contestants to share their saddest and most hopeless personal stories with viewers.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Interruptions

This time around, however, the storytellers couldn't gain emotional leverage, because the hosts kept interrupting them with "humorous" asides and interjections.

Be that as it may the portion did eventually gain some traction, as what could have been a messy debacle merely ended up as a no-no proposition.

"Ito another new game, "I'll Say Oh," was essay-specifically tailored to the hosts' musical talent, and that was all to the good. Hand-drawing faces from songs, and the contestants then had to answer questions related to those lyrics.

Nice that's more like it. New hosts require novel games suited to their specific personalities and strengths, and this was what "I'll Say Oh!" had, as it left "light" for this latest version of the program.

Unfortunately, the fun factor wasn't sustained, because the show's final game turned out to be a carry-over from the previous version, "Open Your Mo," which has sometimes previous pathological because it involves boys opening wide mouths for tokens and the boys occasionally refuse to cooperate. Fun enough, last Oct. 4, the "big winner" were hosts with only P20,000.

New game needed

We submit that one reason why people watched the old "Winaween" show was the fact that it gave away a lot of money. If contestants end up winning less than that on the new "Win sa Win," the show's excitement and stupidity level might drop.

We suggest, therefore, that the final game be replaced by an inventive race competition that's more delightful, exciting—and definitely more "winnable."

Now, how did the new hosts do? Rico Jhon, the "brain of the hosting throne, because he's the most experienced, humorous and entertaining of the four new game masters. But he had to avoid doing his signature "spoof" jokes due to the show's daytime schedule (the kids—and the MTRCB—are watching, you know), so he took a bit out of Fooms.

What about the rest of The Hilarious? They were definitely eager to please, but their hosting felt uneasy and sometimes awkwardly. Well, let's give them more time to get things right.

While doing so, they should also try to make perceptible tendency on their part to rather snidely "insult" contestants in a cheap ploy to generate "humor." Examples of this on their opening show: "Mga kinis ninog 'yan, huwag ko po ng gayak?" "Bul, ang sarap ng hamburger ng mga tipo." etc.

And they were too chatty and spoke out of place, prompting a contestant to politely but pointedly say, "Hindi po po eto opisy," at one point, to shush them down.

Well, who's said game-show hosting was an easy or one-two-three? It's a really tough new game to play and, as middle-age, The Hilarious are realizing that they have quite a lot to learn.

ENTERTAINMENT

News Travels Fast. So Do Germs! Act Fast.

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GRAB ONE NOW

'Survivor' castaway: Not guilty

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos courtesy of GMA 7

BACOLOD CITY—"Survivor" castaway Mel Macatangay, who also works as personal assistant to actor Pinky Prescal, has denied being responsible for leaking reports publicly to sabotage the reality show for being a direct competitor of Pinky's drama series in a rival channel.

"I don't discuss 'Survivor' more than necessary. I know what and what not to say. I didn't name any leads," Mel said in Filipino during a recent media gathering at the Crystal Shrimp Hotel here. "Pinky understands TV production. He is not offended that my issues are rivals. He don't talk about it when we're at home."

Mel is among the 18 castaways competing for the P5-million cash prize in "Survivor Philippines' Celebrity Showdown." The GMA 7 reality program airs on the same time slot with Pinky's adventure drama series "Imade" on ABS-CBN.

"I'm happy to be part of 'Survivor' but I'm also conscious of how IT (Pinky's nickname) feels about it. It is all because to him, he never compares [the two shows]. He even complimented me when he thought I did well on the show. I guess he doesn't take the competition too seriously," she told Inquirer Entertainment.

Mel, a native of Zamboanga del Sur, has been Pinky's personal assistant for 16 years now. She is only a few units away from finishing her culinary course at the Institute of Culinary Arts, which she said Pinky has paid for. Mel has a 5-year-old son, Jonas Mel.

Encouragement

"It's tedious to feel affected by the network wars. I asked his permission before I joined 'Survivor' and he agreed. He said it's a good way to know other people," Mel said. "He encouraged me to do better. He said, 'I'll climb to your sky, 'di mo na kayang runningan.'"

Before she left for Thailand, where "Survivor" was shot, Mel said she had to take two househelps to take care of Pinky. She said, "I was worried about him, too. With his busy work schedule, he couldn't do everything by himself. I taught one househelp to wash his clothes, and the other, who is also my niece, to cook his food. Now that I'm busy promoting 'Survivor' in the provinces, I also make sure to do everything before I leave."

Other "Survivor" castaways who flew to Bacolod to celebrate the year's Masskara Festival were Aubrey Miles, Kris Vlandez, Ishmo Stevenoff, Mico Aytona and Ara Bermudez, as well as program host

ABS-CBN Bandstar dancers in Lady Gaga's "Telephone"

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Jollibee

BDO

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Get a chance to win a Canon DSLR camera by earning more BDO Rewards points!

A total of 40 Canon DSLR cameras* will be given away every month from October to December 2010.

We find ways

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A. UPIN BY JEG MERCA

PUGAD BABOY BY PHIL LOZADA

DICK TRACY

LOVEHUNTS BY ELIZABETH HOROWITZ

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN MANALANSAN

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

TULDOK BY MARA COLL

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

BIRD MACHINE BY MARCO ABRIGO

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPES

By Francis Drake

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're in an excellent day for business and romance, and optimistically for doing fundraising or using the wealth of someone confident. Your enthusiasm must allow people to...

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're in an excellent day to have exciting talks or partnerships with others. Positive outcomes you don't do much. (You will accomplish more by working with others today.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're a people-pro, and will draw to...

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're a kindness day for sports events, alcohol-related talks, dealings, love, romance, the arts, celebrities, work and travel. Be thoughtful, realistic. You must finish and have fun! Fantastic. Mysterious will make!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You have exceptional energy to embrace those changes others can't see. Watch the stock market, and be careful about making financial decisions and overcoming indecision. (Mindful of factor, if possible.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You are in an extraordinary today! You is a completely day for talking, travelling, writing or communicating. Your positive upbeat approach is hard to...

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Professional and productive are...

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your confidence will help you proceed with what you're doing. They like your style!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your positive attitude is...

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Some celebrities are focused today. Be dedicated, and you can learn about the philanthropic efforts of others. Wednesday's Zodiac, for today's sports, are particularly positive presentations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Your positive is aroused, but in a very positive way. People you are associated with what surrounding. They like your style!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Some of you find self-doubt can make. This day is a great day for introspection and planning opportunities in publishing. Be mindful, realistic and fantastic. Focus on an opinion!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs see www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	1	7	3	4	5	9	6	8
8	3	5	6	9	7	1	4	2
4	6	9	1	2	8	3	7	5
1	9	4	2	5	3	6	8	7
7	5	3	8	6	1	4	2	9
6	2	8	7	9	4	5	3	1
5	4	2	9	1	6	7	5	3
3	8	1	4	7	9	8	1	6
9	7	6	5	3	2	2	9	4

Conceptis Sudoku By Nikoli Puzzle

	1	7			9	3	6	8
4			6		1			2
9			3					5
6			8					1
	4	2	9			3		
			4			8		
			2			8		
			7			6		
	6	5				9		

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Opening Today

White House

Directed by Topel Lee; stars Bobby Constantino, Iza Calzado, Lovi Poe, Joem Bascon, Maricar Reyes, Janus del Prado and Megan Young

Reality-show romances may be an infamous haunted mansion in Baguio for a million-peso match prize, but they soon realize that ghosts are not to be trifled with. A medium (Constantino) is tasked to solve the mysterious spirit (Calzado) that abducted his child. Regal's pre-Halloween presentation may shot in a set of haunted house and the actors had their share of spooky stories to tell.

MARICAR Reyes

Life As We Know It

Directed by Greg Berlanti; stars Katherine Heigl, Josh Duhamel, Hayes MacArthur, Will Sasso, Josh Stone, Andrea Daly and Britt Flatmo

Single frenemies (Heigl, Duhamel) learn to tolerate each other after they are tasked to raise dead pals' baby. Dirk Diggler thinks Peig thinks the stars "have appealing chemistry, [for the film] such. woolly faux-comedy with magnetic Philadelphia leagues's Carrie Bailey agrees: "With pratfalls and mushroom, [it] swings from sweet to so-dust." Boston Globe's Ty Burr says it's "brisk, pleasantly timid, pointless. Three days, that's high praise."

MAILEEN Cuna

"SURVIVOR" cast-ways Rio Mercampio, Ervic Vijandre and Solenn Heussaff

"Survivor" ...

From page F1

Richard Gutierrez.

An estimated 10,000 people flocked to the Entertainment Plaza of SM Baguio to watch Eugene stars performed. Chiara de Castro and Geoff Eigenmann, lead actors of the hanky-dinky series "Dyesebel," performed a love song.

Paulleen Luna, who plays the scheming aunt Penny in the top-selling afternoon show "Pedro Liz," also sang two songs that night—"Pasan" and "Singing Kiss for Me."

MCD expresses the latest economy to be voted off.

Loudest claps

But it was 5 year-old actress Jillian Ward, the star of "Pedro Liz," who elicited the loudest applause from the audience. Jillian sang "Tomorrow" and "Saving Liza."

Sabers charmed the audience when she sang "Some Place I Still Is a Boy."

Aubrey performed Vanessa Carlton's "A Thousand Miles."

Miss the latest castaway to be voted off, did a sing and dance number with "Let Me Love You."

She made the crowd dance with her to Lady Gaga's hit song "Telephone." The "Survivor" team concluded the show with the Scary "Do You Remember."

Meanwhile, GMA TV 11 finished will be launching its first local show titled "Sine Sabong," in November, network sales and marketing officer Cristina Bolalino-Magbojos announced on its day. The program, with a theme similar to "Sunday Ma. Jose Sabong," will air at 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

CHEER FACTOR

NEW YORK—He's a well-known for using foul language in lyric, but rapper Eminem one bad words have no place in his own home with daughter. Instead, he told television news magazine "60 Minutes." "I'm a parent, I have daughters. I mean, how would I really sound, as a person, walking around my house 'Bitch, pick this up.' You know what I mean? I don't cuss," he said. Shares

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 LIFE AS WE KNOW IT
2 RED
3 THE HOLE IN 3D
4 THE OTHER GUYS
EAT, PRAY, LOVE

NOW SHOWING

EXPERIENCE THE FIRST HORROR MOVIE IN 3D DON'T MISS IT!

HOW TO KNOW IF YOUR HOUSE IS HAUNTED!

- Have you ever walked into a room of your home and felt that you just shouldn't be there?
- Have you noticed an unexplained chill in a room?
- Have you ever noticed furniture out of place?
- Have you heard unexplained noises in the night?
- Have you ever closed a door only to find it open the next time you walk by it?
- Do you see movement out of the corner of your eye that is not there when you look directly at the area?
- Have you ever smelled perfume or some other scent when no one near you is wearing it?

The Hole

SM CINEMA

IZA CALZADO LOVI POE MARICAR REYES

JOEM BASCON JANUS DEL PRADO MEGAN YOUNG MO TWISTER JARUS ADUANO SARAH LAHBATI

and GABBY CONCEPCION

Isang bahay,
Isang walang-hiyang mahuhuligin,
At isang tao ang magpupuyat ng kumilang buhay laban sa mga ispiritu ng...

WHITE HOUSE

A film by Topel Lee

ANGEL JACOB RICHARD GUTIERREZ LUI VILLAFUZ JOEY PARAS

SM CINEMA

IZA CALZADO LOVI POE MARICAR REYES

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WHITE HOUSE

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SM CINEMA

3D SILVER SCREEN

THE HOLE
EASTERN REMASTERED
THE OTHER GUYS
PIRANHA
PETRANG KABAYO
WHITE HOUSE
LIFE AS WE KNOW IT
FLIPPING HOUSE
RED

THE HOLE IN 3D

POWER PLANT CINEMA

THE OTHER GUYS - P210
EAT, PRAY, LOVE/ LIFE AS WE KNOW IT - P210/P210
RED - P210
THE HOLE (in 3D) - P220
THE HOLE - P210
LIFE AS WE KNOW IT - P210

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NOW SHOWING

Walter Mart

Making it in the mainstream

In spite of 'indie' background, Topel Lee continues to thrive in horror genre

By Rayan San Diego Jr.

FIVE YEARS after Regal Films produced Rondel Mandoveda's Tex-noir hit debut, "Shiloh," director Topel Lee continues to thrive in the horror genre.

And since his first collaboration with Regal (the "Feos" episode of "Shake Rattle & Roll 3" in 2006), Lee has been consistently employed in the mainstream, on both the big and small screen.

Still, he keeps coming back to Regal.

"I've been with the (mainstream) for so long and I can actually happy that they trust me so much and give me plenty of leeway to try new ideas. Regal definitely feels like home to me," he explained.

He admitted that the studio's "Shake" horrors is huge factor but is a "big difference" in his growing-up years. "Without that film, I probably wouldn't be known to this genre."

He added that he's had countless (mainstream) commercial offers. "My roots to the mainstream run very smooth. I've always had a penchant for progressive scripts of my underlain upbringing."

He was among the pioneering filmmakers who rode the digital wave. Five years ago, when he shot "Debut," an action thriller, on a shoestring budget.

"Whenever, I'm all for the digital revolution," he said.

Positive development

Digital technology, he pointed out, "led to the democratization of Filipino filmmaking, which is a positive development, not only for the indie filmmaker-friends, but for the entire industry as well."

For his latest Regal slasher, "Where Dreams," Lee used a Red-scale P2 HD camera and had a tight 17-day shooting schedule.

"The biggest challenge for me is to create something new," he admitted. "The audience already knows what to expect from horror films. I wanted to veer away from those familiar scenes."

The script spelled the difference for him.

"When I read the script, I saw that it had potential. It seems as a genre where don't supposed to be fun but we're into something scary. I thought that was a fresh approach."

Hegel premiered the concept to him and "I just tweaked it a bit and gave it a different treatment."

Lee looked forward to reuniting with "Shiloh Heaven" star Liz Alcantara, whom he directed in the "Feos" segment of "Shake R" and "Orgia."

"I didn't know what to expect from Gabby (Concepcion)," he said. "But on the (last day) I met him, he cracked a joke and I knew instantly we'd get along."

He have a simple goal for "Where Dreams," which opens today. "Scaring people and making them forget their worries even for just (two hours) would make me happy."

In the works for him a "Shake 12" for the Metro Manila Film Fest, along with a project for Viva Films.

Cute hunk's 'boylet' has a solo-act sex video

By the Entertainment staff

PERSISTENT on the rumors that Lito Monk prefers boys over girls.

The Mel is buzzing with chatter that DJ and ex Angeling Abad, who's quite a lesbian, had a steamy fling.

Ignoring the fact that they're of the same gender, DJ and Ali look picture-perfect. Together. They're supposed to be BFFs.

What's the Reason?

There's a rush in this scoop: Abad just turn over, though. It's allegedly has a sex video on the Internet, engaging in (read: sex) in front of a webcam—not with DJ, but alone, as in solo act.

Not-so-hidden clues

A pictorial was set in the house of Innocent Lopez.

Ali, however, failed to take up interesting photographs in the living room. Among the snapshots are socialites' snaps in a framed picture of her with Snipe actress whose gender has always been suspect.

DARING. Phil swings and Rhett Evangelista

The photo looks harmless...but may be inside a damning evidence in those alleged sexcapades.

Take 2 for Erwin Garcia

A repeat performance of Erwin Garcia's "No Time Over Ito" stab gigs is set on Oct. 23 at Malcolmn Rotunda, 1071 Leon Guinto St. Manila.

This will be the third show of the same show which had two performances in August, both reportedly well-attended.

In the remote actor posing for a second time?

"I was a major factor in becoming an actor," he points out. He had revealed two singles in 1993. His last film appearance was in the musical "Happy Happy Holiday."

He says he probably got his vocal chops from his mother Marina, who used to sing onstage as a theater actress in Iloilo.

His show will feature jazz standards, such as Latin and R&B.

Kundiman song festival

The Int' Music Corporate Kundiman Song Festival will be held on Oct. 22, 1 p.m. at Pavilion Hall in Ilaya, Legazpi.

The song competition celebrates the 112th birth anniversary of Capitol, recognized as the first Filipino recording artist.

Call (052) 480-5465.

ERWIN Garcia sings again on Oct. 23.

Top of the talk shows

The show who missed last weekend's guitars on TV (And why we are missed, if we are missed)

●**Host Evangelista** on Daniel Matsunaga.

"But the young genius doing extraordinary I've both. And I think, so far, it's the best. So, sana talaga totoo." (Good luck!)

●**Lolit Concepcion** on doing a reunion movie with Marvin Canada.

"It was a wish...It's still a wish na sana, mangyari dahil marami ring komokong sana maraming nagpa-request." (Me too, parang sinabi ko!)

●**Rhyzel Cruz** on Cristina Reyes.

"Nakakatuwa...Nung nakilala ko siya, ma-taping kami nakilala ako kaagad. Ma-talent siya! Natural na natural. Sobrang totoong sa sarili." (Be effect words, being real is cute in showbiz!)

(Jimi talk. The Buzz. Showbiz Lowdown).

HP Best Buy Tech Craze Festival Mall Winner

There's nothing but HP for Erwin Aadian (3rd from left) who becomes the second winner of the HP Best Buy Tech Craze promo last September 29, 2012.

Mr. Aadian who won an HP Mini Note 110 after availing an HP notebook is joined by Maia Innocencio – HP Retail Account Manager –LEAD, Celine Dizon – HP Channel Sales Manager, Albert Mateo – Country General Manager of HP Personal Systems Group, Paul Alcantara – HP Category Manager, Erick Martin Chandler – HP Exec LEAD , and Ferdie Fetrez - HP Wholesaler Account Manager.

Join the craze and be among those who will get the chance to win lots of prizes including free gadgets, tote bags and on-the-spot prizes. Take advantage of the big discounts, and of any of the participating HP products and be entitled to a raffle entry.

HP Best Buy Tech is now ongoing in SM Cebu, Ayala Area from October 16 to 21, 2012.

SHOW BIZ 101

THE CAT a cut of the bag. What was whispered about a new being discussed openly on all media outlets.

Actor Gerald Anderson has addressed the rumors against him. Ito him daily and rumored girlfriend Bea Alonzo.

The two were already together but he broke up with Kim Chiu.

Two lines are now being used to answers who cannot separate fact from fiction.

TV networks shouldn't be too lenient in blocking the lines, though. After all, there is the same machinery that encourages frontliners in the public.

Still, the media are aware to boldly face it if they are unhappy with their shin' personal decisions. All they have to do is not watch the stars' movies and TV shows.